

War on terror cuts freedom, says Thatcher

Rights warning to 'those who live by the gun'

- Some traditional freedoms must be sacrificed in the battle against terrorism, Mrs Thatcher said last night
- In a keynote speech in the City she also paid lavish tributes to President Reagan and his successor, Mr Bush
- The Prime Minister robustly defended recent government initiatives against those who "live by the gun"
- She intensified her warning that the Western powers should not cut back on defence expenditure

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mrs Margaret Thatcher last night admitted that the Government's latest actions to counter terrorism do restrict traditional liberties.

But she insisted that those who chose to live by the bomb and the gun had sacrificed their right to the same freedoms as others.

In her speech to the Lord Mayor's banquet at the City of London's Guildhall the Prime Minister reserved her most uncompromising words for her defence of the latest measures to deal with terrorism, including the ban on radio and television interviews with terrorist organizations and their sympathizers and the ending of the right to silence in court.

that the Government had been accused of undermining press and media freedom.

She answered the charge by quoting a letter she had received from the mother of a young serviceman murdered by the IRA: "a letter which said 'Where is the freedom of the press, I hear them cry. Where is my son's freedom?'"

Mrs Thatcher went on: "Yes, some of those measures do restrict freedom. But those

who choose to live by the bomb and the gun and those who support them cannot in all circumstances be accorded exactly the same rights as everyone else."

"We do sometimes have to sacrifice a little of the freedoms we cherish in order to defend ourselves from those whose aim is to destroy that freedom altogether."

Mrs Thatcher's highlighting of the terrorist issue in a speech traditionally devoted to foreign affairs and the economy was significant in advance of her American visit.

She wants to use her interviews on the US television networks to warn Americans not to increase terrorism by contributing funds to IRA support organizations in the belief they are going to legitimate relief.

Mrs Thatcher knows that she will face criticism in America on the latest moves and she was clearly "getting her retaliation in first".

In her Guildhall speech the Prime Minister said that further measures to counter Northern Ireland terrorists would follow. The Government's next move is expected to be the imposition of a declaration renouncing violence on those who stand for public order in the province.

Mrs Thatcher paid lavish tributes to President Reagan and to Mr George Bush, the

President-elect, whom she flies to Washington to see today.

She emphasized that the conquest of inflation remained the Government's economic priority. She intensified her warnings that the West should not cut back on defence expenditure in the face of the new climate in Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's Soviet Union.

Mrs Thatcher flies to America this afternoon after the fourth longest parliamentary session this century, including 44 Government Bills, 96 days when the Commons sat after midnight and 80 days on which she has had to answer Prime Minister's Questions.

She referred to her visit to Poland last week, saying that she had felt there as never before people's yearning for liberty and that "nothing could be more moving, nothing more inspiring".

She paid tribute to those all over the world who had struggled for human rights and then declared that no one deserved greater thanks for giving hope and inspiration to those who were not free than President Reagan.

He had, she said, ended the Western world's retreat from responsibility, restored the pride and leadership of the US and given the West back its confidence in free enterprise and democratic values. "He has left America stronger, prouder, greater than ever before."

Mr Bush, she said, was a worthy successor. "We admire him as a friend, we admire him as a man of unrivalled experience in government and we respect him because he stands for all that is best in America."

She emphasized that nothing could be more disastrous for the West than to run down its defences at the first sign of more peaceful and stable relations between East and West.

40 years on, royal dance to the music of time



The Prince, with badge proclaiming "Life begins at 40", dancing with Miss Marie Blake. (Photograph: Graham Wood)

Prince's plants in mood for party

By Alan Hamilton

It was enough to warm the cockles of any 40-year-old heart. "He really moves well for his age," said a slip of a girl, aged 22, who danced with the Prince of Wales yesterday.

How a birthday with 1,500 guests in a converted tram shed next to Aston Villa football ground, Birmingham, would turn out was something of a mystery, not least to its guest of honour. Cheered and mobbed as he arrived, the Prince of Wales decided it was at least a safe occasion at which to venture a joke.

"Only the other day I was inquiring of a whole bed of old-fashioned roses, forced to listen to my demented ramblings on the meaning of the universe, while sitting cross-legged in the lotus position on a gravel path in front of them, what would happen on my birthday in a Birmingham tram shed," the Prince said.

He reported that the roses were agast. Could they not find somewhere more salubrious? Apparently not, the Prince told the forlorn-looking bunch of the floribundas; most of the rest of Birmingham had been knocked down.

"A row of prize Welsh leeks, cocky little things, chipped in to say that the shed would be filled with semi-naked Kalarah bushmen performing a fertility dance, together with several troupes of Tibetan Buddhist monks who had levitated from Saffron Walden. There would also be a whole flock of pedigree gurus telling me what to say to hovering groups of Buddhists."

"Don't be so ridiculous," the Prince said he said to the plants. "They wouldn't dare."

"Oh yes they would," chorused half-an-acre of Brussels sprouts.

In the event, the Prince conceded, the plants got it wrong. Continued on page 24, col 2

£8,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

Two people shared yesterday's £4,000 daily prize (see page 3); so the Portfolio Accumulator stands at £8,000. Prices: Page 31.

IN PART ②

Surprise rise in sales

A surprise increase in retail sales was revealed in government figures yesterday, a day after a CBI survey showed a slowdown.

Retail sales in October rose 1.9 per cent, taking the year-on-year rise to 6 per cent. In foreign exchange markets the dollar, helped by Bank of Japan buying, bounced back from last week's falls to gain more than half a cent against the pound at \$1.8090. The shares slide also eased with the FT-SE 100 share index losing 8.4 points to close at 1,794.3

Page 25

US threat to British Coal

British Coal, which yesterday said that it may not hit the break-even target set for it by the Government this year, is now faced with the prospect of its biggest customer buying coal from the United States. The Central Electricity Generating Board has asked 12 US coal companies to submit tenders.

Page 25

Oval sacking

Surrey have dismissed their England wicketkeeper, Jack Richards, with a year of his contract to run.

Page 48

INDEX

Home News	2-46
Overseas	7-9-11
Business	25-32
Sport	44-48
Appointments	37
Arts	18-19
Births, marriages, deaths	17
Bridge	16
Chess	2
Church	17
City Diary	27
Court	16
Crosswords	22-24
Diary	14
Entertainments	22
Fashion	21
Features	13-14
Information	22
Law Report	15
Leading articles	39
Legal appointments	15
Letters	17
Obituary	18
On This Day	14
Parliament	12
Saleroom	4
Science Report	16
Technology	33-35
Universities	23
TV & Radio	24
Weather	24

Lawyers walk out of 'shoot-to-kill' inquest

By Jamie Dettmer, Irish Affairs Correspondent

The long-awaited inquest into the deaths of three IRA men at the centre of allegations about a Royal Ulster Constabulary "shoot-to-kill" policy broke down yesterday when their families and lawyers walked out of the hearing.

They accused Mr James Elliott, the coroner, of "poisoning" the minds of the jury by accepting "hearsay" evidence and called the inquest a whitewash.

Earlier a solicitor for one of the families left the inquest at Craigavon, Co Armagh, to seek an injunction from the High Court in Belfast.

Mr Pat Funicane argued that statements from the three officers who shot the IRA men - Sergeant William Montgomery, and Constable David Brannigan and Constable Frederick Robinson - should not be admitted as they had refused to attend the hearing.

Mr Funicane said: "They are the killers and no one but

them can tell us what happened. It is case of these officers wanting to have their cake and eat it as well."

Mr Elliott refused to adjourn the hearing so that a judicial review could decide whether the officers should be compelled to attend. Later families of the two other IRA

men instructed their lawyers to withdraw when a police witness said the pair had said in the past that they would never be taken alive.

Earlier the coroner informed the inquest that he had received a certificate from Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, preventing the hearing from investigating intelligence details surrounding the shooting.

Mr King signed a Public Interest Immunity Certificate last week which, in effect, bans the inquest from exploring

surveillance and intelligence operations behind the shooting which led to the deaths of Gervais McKerr, Eugene Tooman and Sean Burns during a car chase in Lurgan on November 11, 1982.

The certificate will also stop any details emerging about the RUC chain of command during the incident.

Similar certificates were issued by the Home Office and the Foreign Secretary for the Gibraltar inquest into the SAS shooting of three IRA members. It is the first time such a certificate has been used in Northern Ireland.

All the trappings of the Gibraltar inquest were to be seen in the Craigavon courthouse yesterday.

RUC witnesses are to give evidence protected by screens and will be identified by letters of the alphabet. Letters have also been given to the three officers although their names are known.

Two-week reprieve for shipyard

By Nicholas Wood and Peter Davenport

The threat of closure hanging over the state-owned British Shipbuilders' Sunderland yard has been lifted for two weeks.

Mr Tony Newton, the Minister for Trade and Industry, told MPs yesterday that four bids received for North East Shipbuilders Ltd (NESL), which employs 2,000 workers, had been rejected. However,

the Government had asked the parent company to assess the viability of three new bids from firms interested in taking over the Wearside complex.

This would also allow all those involved in the negotiations to be fully informed of the outcome of talks with a Cuban shipping company

about a possible £120 million order for the yard.

Mr Alan Milburn, co-ordinator of the Save Our Shipyards campaign, said: "We are thankful that common sense has prevailed. We remain convinced that there is a viable future for shipbuilding on the Wear."

Parliament, page 12

High-risk doctors pay the price of protection

By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent

Obstetricians face a five-fold increase in medical insurance premiums next year as part of a new system of differential payments to be introduced by Britain's second largest medical defence society.

The increase from £1,080 to £5,000 per annum, which could deter doctors from training in obstetrics, reflects a decision by the Medical Protection Society to levy insurance premiums according to the level of risk in different areas of medicine.

At the moment all doctors pay £1,080 in defence subscriptions. But although rates for general practitioners and low-risk doctors are to remain at this level, anaesthetists and

surgeons face nearly a 100 per cent rise to £1,800, on April 1 next year. Obstetricians, who the society says are subject to the highest number of and most expensive claims, will have to pay between £4,000 and £5,000.

The move was condemned by the British Medical Association which said that it would have "a disastrous effect on recruitment into high-risk specialties".

However, the society, which represents 46,000 doctors, is now trying to negotiate a deal with the Department of Health so that the rates for high-risk doctors are more heavily subsidized.

Last year the Government accepted the recommendation of the pay review body for doctors that it should pay two-thirds of all hospital doctor

subscriptions. GPs already get their premiums reimbursed retrospectively.

The society has now asked the Government to pay a higher proportion of the obstetricians' fees so that the amount the individual pays is the same rate as for surgeons. Alternatively the society suggests that the Department of Health should introduce a partial no-fault compensation system to cover claims concerning brain-damaged babies.

No-fault compensation, a scheme which is backed by the association, means that compensation is paid for medical accidents irrespective of fault.

Two weeks ago the Medical Defence Union representing more than

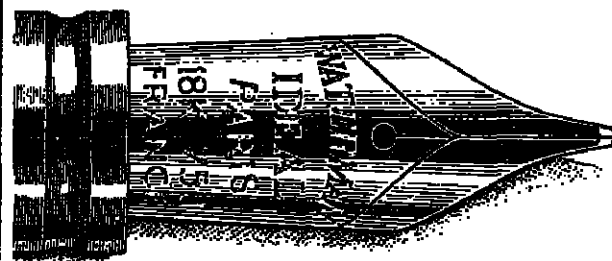
60,000 doctors, decided to retain a flat rate for doctors and increase its premiums by 25 per cent to £1,350.

But yesterday Dr Peter Ford, secretary of the society, defended its decision to opt for differential rates. "As medical negligence claims and settlements continue to escalate the society no longer believes it equitable that the profession as a whole must continue to shoulder this increasing financial burden equally."

Dr Ford said that the new rates could be subject to change pending negotiations with the professions and the Department of Health. "The society has a duty not only to its members but also to patients to introduce subscription rates which are financially prudent."

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Lead-free petrol campaign rebuff

The Government has rejected the recommendation of the Tory-controlled trade and industry select committee for further action to promote the use of lead-free petrol. It is also to end the requirement on petrol stations to display prices per gallon as well as per litre, on the grounds that "the litre is now overwhelmingly the unit for petrol retailing".

The Department of Trade and Industry rejected the committee's call for a broader, government-financed advertising campaign on lead-free petrol, saying the main advertising efforts should come from the oil companies and motor manufacturers.

The committee yesterday renewed its call for a fresh campaign, "deplored" the announcement on price displays and urged ministers to reconsider.

£1.6bn Airbus deal

Airbus Industrie, the European plane-making consortium, yesterday clinched a £1.6 billion deal for up to 46 jets with the American leasing giant, ILFC. The order, for virtually the whole range of aircraft in the Airbus "family", highlights the huge worldwide demand for modern jets. The jets will be leased on to airlines desperate to acquire new models to replace existing noisy aircraft which will soon have to be phased out.

Ford models recalled

Ford is recalling 500,000 Escort and Orion models throughout Europe built from early 1987 to modify a component which has been found to chafe the front brake pipes in extreme conditions. The company said yesterday that less than 20 instances of the plastic protective liner in the front wheel arches coming loose and chafing the brake hoses had been detected. The mounting for the liner is to be improved and the brake pipes will be inspected by Ford dealers who will carry out the modification free of charge.

Search is extended

The search for Anna Humphries was extended yesterday to woodland around Wenlock Edge near Much Wenlock, Shropshire, close to where one of her shoes was found by the roadside. Anna, aged 15, of Penley, near Ellesmere, disappeared seven days ago on her way home from school. Police said last night that the search for her and for David Evans, aged 31, an unemployed farm worker from the nearby village of Bettisfield, who left home at the same time as Anna's disappearance, had not yielded any fresh result.

Peter Pan still helps

Royalties from J M Barrie's children's classic, *Peter Pan*, will once again flow to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, central London, from today. The hospital's ownership of the copyright on the work, bequeathed by Barrie, expired on New Year's Eve last year, 50 years after his death. Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, whose wife is chairman of the special trustees who administer bequests to the hospital, persuaded the Government to accept an amendment to the Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill, ensuring the royalties should continue. The Bill receives Royal Assent today.

England start well

England made an outstanding start in the first round of the World Chess Olympics which began on Sunday at Thessaloniki, Greece. The men's team won all 4 points against the Faeroe Islands while the women beat the Malaysians 3-0. After the first round, England shared the lead with the United States, which defeated Egypt 4-0. The USSR scored 3½ points against Syria, and Hungary 3 points against Ireland.

Action urged on air-miss report

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

Air traffic controllers and airlines are to urge the Civil Aviation Authority to implement all 13 recommendations contained in the official report into Britain's worst air miss without waiting for it to be published.

As disclosed in *The Times* yesterday, the report, by the Department of Transport's Air Accident Investigation Branch, criticizes the equipment and procedures at the main London Air Traffic Control Centre at West Drayton.

The Department of Transport insisted yesterday that Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, had still not read the report although copies have been circulating for some time. The depart-

ment said he might not receive it until January at the earliest before it was formally published.

The Guild of Air Traffic Control Officers said yesterday that it welcomed the report on the air miss involving a British Airways Trident and a Bulgarian Tupolev 154 in February, and would be pressing for its recommendations to be acted upon immediately.

The CAA said that it too welcomed the report and many of the recommendations had already been acted upon.

But several important measures have still not been taken.

One of the most crucial is to change the way controllers input information into the main computer at West Drayton so that the height to which an

aircraft has been cleared is displayed automatically in front of every controller as well as the height at which it is actually flying.

Such a system, known as EDDUS, was considered by the CAA in 1972, says the report, but was dropped because of a fall in traffic levels in 1973-74.

Work continued on the system but it was considered it could not be used with the existing radar units and a complete redesign of the control panels was recommended.

Technical problems with the power supply and air conditioning meant this was put off and further difficulties later arose which meant the plan was never implemented.

The report also recommends that two controllers should always be

available to man each position and that they should operate on the same radio frequency on a dual monitoring principle.

But the Lydd sector, where the air miss took place, is routinely worked by only two people, with one on break and they still work on different radio frequencies.

This is partly caused by a shortage of air traffic controllers with fewer available than in 1983 in spite of a big increase in traffic.

The CAA has recently announced plans for a £600 million investment programme including a new main computer and, eventually, a new centre.

But airlines and controllers are united in their determination to press for a much speedier response.

Changes to air rescue service

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

Improved search and rescue arrangements by RAF and Royal Navy helicopters were announced yesterday by Mr Roger Freeman, Minister of State for the Armed Forces.

Fears that RAF Leuchars, an important search and rescue station in Scotland, would be closed proved groundless when Mr Freeman confirmed that two Wessex helicopters would remain at the base.

However, the station would operate only during daylight hours from autumn next year, Mr Freeman said in a parliamentary written answer. Night cover would be provided from RAF Prestwick, which had the more capable Sea King helicopter. The call-out time for Royal Navy Sea Kings from Prestwick was to be improved to 15 minutes by day and 45 minutes by night.

A daytime-only service will also be introduced at RAF Chivenor in Devon. Both at Chivenor and Leuchars, one of the two Wessex helicopters will be held in reserve. Mr Freeman said at a press conference later that that would allow the number of crews to be reduced from four to three.

However, he emphasized that the helicopter deployments were not part of a cost-cutting exercise. The overall operation would still cost about £50 million a year. Although there would be no new helicopters ordered, a number were to be re-deployed. One Sea King was being brought back from the Falklands.

The announcement on Britain's search and rescue operations came after a long study by the UK Civil Rescue Helicopter Coverage Working Group, which recommended that helicopter coverage around the United Kingdom coasts be improved.

Although the RAF and Royal Navy helicopters are deployed primarily for military use, 90 per cent of the incidents to which they are called involve civilians.

As part of the improved services, the older Wessex helicopters deployed at the 12 military search and rescue bases are being replaced by the all-weather Sea King.

Pensioners could get an extra £500m in benefits

By Nicholas Wood and Philip Webster

More than one million of Britain's poorest and oldest pensioners could gain by as much as £500 million in extra benefits in the wake of the disputed briefing of Sunday newspaper political correspondents by Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, it was disclosed yesterday.

Sources close to Mr Lawson indicated that one result of the furore over his briefing would be to make it that much harder for him to contain the cost of the package of new benefits now being drawn up by Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Security.

Although the figures can only be speculative at this stage, the sources suggested that instead of costing perhaps £100 million extra, as first envisaged by the Treasury, the eventual bill could be between £200 million and £500 million.

The disclosure came as the Labour leadership last night declared its determination to continue harrying Mr Lawson. It was considering whether to attempt to refer Mr Lawson's conduct to the Com-

mittee of Privileges after its application for an emergency debate failed in the Commons.

Mr Gordon Brown, shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, sought the debate, suggesting that Mr Lawson seemed intent on betraying a "trust which millions of people have put in the welfare state and around which they have organized their lifetime's finances".

After Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, turned down the request, Labour leaders met immediately to discuss ways of keeping up the pressure on Mr Lawson.

Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader, said last night: "We consider Mr Lawson's conduct to be so serious that that we have no intention of allowing the matter to drop".

Sources close to Mr Lawson, however, insisted yesterday that contrary to the overwhelming weight of Opposition and media comment since the briefing, there had been no inconsistency between the Chancellor's remarks and his subsequent statement to the Commons.

Piped into Parliament



Mr Jim Sillars, the Scottish National Party victor in the Glasgow, Govan by-election, acknowledges cheers by supporters as he arrived to take his seat in the Commons yesterday, the last full day of the present parliamentary session. He was piped into the Houses of Parliament to the strains of "Flower of Scotland" and offered to work with Labour's nationalists.

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Knightsbridge safe deposit box robbery

'Leader of gang estimated haul at £40m', court told

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The leader of an armed gang who raided a safe deposit centre at Knightsbridge, west London, valued the haul of cash, jewellery, drugs and other valuables at £40 million, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

One witness saw 15 or 20 sacks lined up by the gang, which included the debt-ridden part-owner of the centre, ready to be taken away after the theft, the court was told.

Later, the bank notes seized from 120 riddled boxes at the centre, opposite Harrods, filled a hall in a flat used by the gang. Its leader had declared the raid had been "the most fantastic robbery of all time".

Five men accused of the robbery in July last year pleaded not guilty at the start of their trial yesterday.

They are Valerio Vicci, aged 33, of no fixed address; David Poole, aged 48, unemployed, of Wandsworth, south London; Parvez Latif, aged 30, part-owner of the centre, of Willesden, north London; Peter O'Donoghue, aged 34, unemployed, of St John's Wood; and Israel Pinkas, aged 47, unemployed, of Finchley Road.

Mr Vicci, Mr Poole, Mr O'Donoghue and Mr Latif have also pleaded not guilty to having firearms with intent. The court was told that Pinkas had pleaded guilty to five

counts of handling stolen property after the robbery.

Mr Roy Amlot, for the prosecution, told the court that the robbery took place on a Sunday at the Knightsbridge Safe Deposit Centre in Brompton Road. Two security guards were on duty when Mr Latif, the only staff member on duty, let in two men in suits at 3.15pm after a telephone call half an hour earlier with an inquiry about renting a box.

Guns were produced and the two guards and Mr Latif were overpowered. Mr Latif was chained up with the two guards and then released and dragged away. The guards could hear the sound of boxes being smashed open for more than an hour.

Mr Amlot said: "No doubt it was a colossal haul". Box holders who came forward had brought the total lost to £16 million, of which police had found about half.

He said: "Vicci, the ring-leader, put the value at £40 million. It may be accurate because he is the one who is likely to know. I say that because it may be some of the valuable boxes belong to losers who have not come forward for reasons of their own."

At 5.15pm, a third guard who arrived to lock up was overpowered and the raiders left. Latif had been returned to

join the first two guards. A printed notice was found outside the centre apologizing to the public for the closure of the centre "during improvements to our security system". Mr Amlot said the robbery was carefully planned. The gang was led by Mr Vicci, who took part with Mr O'Donoghue and Mr Poole and two others in carrying out the actual robbery. The other two were abroad. One was thought to be an American called Eric.

The prosecutor said Mr Latif had helped to plan the robbery and pretended to be a victim. Pinkas had also helped in the planning without actually carrying it out and had disposed of the proceeds with a man called Steven Mann, who had also pleaded guilty.

Mr Amlot said Mr Vicci made the mistake of leaving behind fingerprints and blood from a cut. Mr Vicci, who was born in Italy, came to Britain in 1986 and started visiting the centre to see Mr Latif from March last year.

He opened a box in May last year but had given neither a name nor address. The agreement was signed by Mr Latif. Before the robbery, Mr Vicci had rented a safe flat and bought a van for the raid.

After the robbery, he was involved in depositing thousands of pounds in cash in

accounts in Britain and abroad. He had bought a black Ferrari for £87,000 in cash and was involved in selling five diamonds for more than \$1 million in Antwerp.

Mr Amlot said that when Mr Vicci was arrested, he admitted that he had led, conceived and organized the robbery but refused to identify anyone else. He gave details of \$1 million in a Luxembourg account and the diamond sale. Mr Amlot said: "He estimated the value of the property he had stolen at £40 million."

Mr Latif bought the centre and a second in north London with a partner in 1986. By March last year, the business was losing £500,000 and the operating loss continued into the new financial year. Mr Latif had an overdraft which reached six figures at one point.

In May last year, he had talks about insurance for the centres and coverage for individual boxes. Mr Amlot said he wanted to know if his policy covered loss of earnings for the centres due to armed robbery. The police for the boxes and coverage for loss of earnings were increased.

Mr Amlot said Mr Latif had played his role well. He was at the centre virtually every day with the police for four weeks after the robbery. The case continues today.

Poppy day victims still in hospital



Rachel Aston, Keith Aubrook and Mark Bradley (right) in hospital after the car crash which injured 17 in a Remembrance Day parade.

The Scouts, Guides and other organizations such as the Royal British Legion are to be asked to draw up guidelines for processions they hold on public roads.

The move comes in the wake of the accident in Birmingham when a car struck a Remembrance Day march on a dual carriageway, injuring 17.

Nine children were last night still receiving hospital treatment after Sunday's crash involving a marching column of 100 Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Cubs on the main A34 in Great Barr, north Birmingham. Two were in a "poorly condition".

The Royal Society for the Prevention

of Accidents (RoSPA) said yesterday it would call a conference of the various organizations to discuss safety procedures to be adopted for thousands of processions held every year such as those on Poppy Day and St George's Day.

Parents said at least two police officers should have supervised the procession.

Tanker gas leak affects infant pupils

By Craig Seton

Nine junior and infant pupils were taken to hospital yesterday after being overcome by an orange-coloured cloud of acidic gas which leaked from a tanker.

A further 50 of the 400 children at the Cronehill Junior and Infant School, West Bromwich, West Midlands, were given health checks by an emergency team of doctors after pupils complained of breathing difficulties, sickness and sore eyes.

The emergency began when 600 gallons of nitric acid spilled from a tanker when a valve fractured as it was being driven on the West Bromwich expressway, a short distance

from the school. Two cars behind were in collision after the tanker driver had stopped his vehicle, but the drivers were not injured.

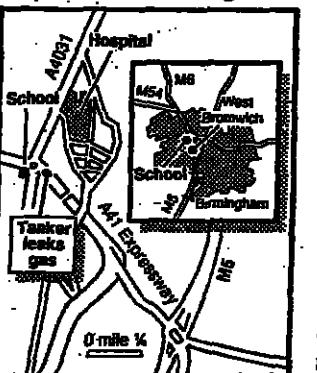
Witnesses said a large cloud of orange-coloured gas from the spillage drifted towards the school, where children were in the playground. A police inspector who was one of the first on the scene also complained of feeling ill.

Miss Ann Dickinson, head teacher of the school, said: "The whole of the air changed colour within seconds, as did all of the buildings. You could feel it. There was a terrible burning sensation and a soreness in the eyes. Together with my staff, we immediately got the children inside very speed-

ily and we closed all the doors and windows. It was quite an exercise."

Miss Dickinson said a team of doctors arrived and began carrying out health checks.

All the children were given a



letter to take home to their parents asking them to take them to hospital if they became ill.

Of those taken to Sandwell District Hospital, two were detained for observation. They were named as Daniel Cole and Adam Tandy, both aged 11, from West Bromwich.

None of those involved was thought to be seriously affected.

West Midlands police helicopter was sent up to monitor the gas cloud, which was later said to have dissipated.

The spillage site was sealed off and residents and factories were warned to close windows and doors.

Union 'conspiracy warning'

By Andrew Morgan

The general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association warned five full-time officers, including his deputy, that a conspiracy within the union was seeking to remove them just days before the men were dismissed, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

The officers were dismissed for alleged breach of contract after taking industrial action for six days over a pay claim.

The tribunal was told that when the five decided to return to work at the union's north London headquarters, they found the locks had been changed and they were refused entry as the national executive meeting discussed their case.

Mr Peter Rushworth, former deputy general secretary, and Mr Phil Hornsby, Mr Jim Kay, Mr Jim Jeffrey and Mr Malcolm Thomas, assistant secretaries, are claiming unfair dismissal by the union.

The tribunal was told that Mr David Evans, general secretary, told the officers that Mr Terry Jarman, the finance officer, was conspiring to remove all the full-time officers.

Mr Evans had said that he himself was "under attack" with executive members wanting "an administrative takeover", and he could not tolerate it any longer. Mr Robert Griffiths, for the officers, said Mr Evans sought a "pledge of

unity" during a meeting with Mr Kay and said they would stand or fall together.

He said Mr Evans told Mr Kay that he was "a target". Mr Evans said he would be "down the road" with him if attempts were made to get rid of him.

Mr Griffiths said that after the officers had taken industrial action, Mr Evans told them he was staying at work to look after their interests.

The national executive had rejected a pay claim by the officers last September after the pay of grade-one chief prison officers to which the assistant secretaries' pay was related, was increased to £21,893. The hearing continues today.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator Dinner to celebrate

Mr Thomas Morgan, of Barnet, Hertfordshire, was one of two winners who shared the daily Portfolio prize of £4,000 yesterday.

Mr Morgan, aged 57, plans to take his wife out to dinner to celebrate. He will put the rest towards Christmas presents for his family.

The other winner was Mr B Crowley, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

TV arrest driver gets six months

A driver whose violent arrest after a police chase was shown on television was jailed yesterday for six months.

Michael Vaughan Williams went through three road blocks and forced police cars off the road four times with his old car in a 12½-mile pursuit.

He overtook on the wrong side of the road and on the brow of a hill, Mr Robert Watts, for the prosecution, told Llangefni Magistrates' Court, Gwynedd.

Williams, aged 21, was arrested after he burst a tyre. A television cameraman testing new equipment filmed an apparent attack by police.

Williams, unemployed, of Hen Blas, Newborough, Anglesey, admitted reckless driving, driving while disqualified and not having insurance or test certificate.

Mr John Meredith, for the defence, said Williams panicked. No accident had happened and no damage was done to any other vehicle. Williams was still being treated six months after the alleged police assault.

He had also received anonymous telephone calls and hate mail.

After the hearing, the Director of Public Prosecutions said charges against the arresting officers were still under consideration.

Call for wider recruitment to colleges

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

More women, disabled people and students from poorer backgrounds must be recruited to higher education if Britain is to have enough graduates to meet the economic challenges of the 1990s and the next century, a report published yesterday says.

Action for Access, produced by the National Advisory Body for Public Sector Higher Education, said women, minority ethnic groups and people with disabilities were not getting a fair share of higher education.

The economy could not

afford "this waste of talent". The board said equal opportunity watchdogs should be set up in polytechnics and colleges to monitor the number of people from the under-represented groups entering colleges.

"If we are to meet the demand of industry, commerce and the public sector for significantly larger numbers of qualified people it is essential that the groups which are currently severely under-represented in higher education are tapped and encouraged into the system", says the

report, compiled by a committee chaired by Mrs Beverly Anderson, lecturer in education at Oxford Polytechnic.

It added that although women made up 52 per cent of the population, they were still under-represented in higher education. Although 10 per cent of engineering students in Britain were women, 25 per cent studied the subject in Sweden, 15 per cent in France, and 25 per cent in the United States.

The Combined Labour Force Survey for 1984-86 said the proportion of people from

different ethnic backgrounds with no educational qualifications were "43 per cent white, 49 per cent Indian, 56 per cent West Indian, 73 per cent Pakistani/Bangladeshi and 36 per cent 'other groups'".

In the light of that, the National Advisory Board welcomed the recent Department of Education and Science decision to include an ethnicity question in the Further Education Statistical Record.

Action for Access (National Advisory Body for Public Sector Higher Education, 22 Percy Street, London W1P 9FF; £3).

Court told of sex sessions

By Mark Ellis

A barrister committed serious sexual offences in a sauna at his home against two young boys who had absconded from a special school, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

It is alleged that six men used one boy as a "talent scout" at the West Country school to recruit other pupils, some as young as 12, to be abused by the sex ring.

Mr Michael Hill, QC, for the prosecution, said one of the accused, Alan Delaney, aged 48, a company solicitor, of Shirley Drive, Hounslow,

Middlesex, won the trust of parents of some of the alleged victims and was permitted to take the boys on holiday.

He was telephoned by two boys when they absconded and he drove to Devon to pick them up to take them to London, where it is alleged they were passed around the sex ring.

Boys were taken to the home of Colin Peters, aged 45, a barrister, of Chesham Road, Bayswater, London, where it is alleged he took part in a sexual session in a sauna.

Apart from Mr Delaney and

Mr Peters, the other defendants are Victor Burnett, aged 43, unemployed, of north London, Ernest Whittington, aged 64, an estate orderly for the borough of Brent, north London, of George Lansbury House, Harlesden, London, Patrick Norris, aged 19, unemployed, of Holly Close, Kilburn, London, and Sean Norris, aged 18, also unemployed, of the same address. They all deny a total of 18 charges, nearly all of serious sexual offences against children under the age of 16.

The case continues today.

GP's reinstatement refused

A doctor refused to visit a patient who was seriously ill because she did not want to miss her Sunday lunch, a disciplinary hearing was told yesterday.

Dr Isobel Brooks, aged 47, told an anxious mother that her daughter, aged three, was suffering a virus going around and put the telephone down.

But the child, who was racked by fits of vomiting and shaking, was rushed to hospital hours later with pneumonia, the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee was told when considering Dr Brooks's application for reinstatement.

Mr Robert Wills, for the

council, said: "Dr Brooks said she was having lunch with her family and she was not going to visit and put the phone down."

"The child's condition required urgent medical attention. Dr Brooks said the child had a virus, should be sponged down with water and after that would be all right."

"The child got worse, her temperature rose, and she started to shake. The mother had the child admitted to hospital that day and pneumonia was diagnosed. Fortunately the youngster recovered."

Dr Brooks, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, also

refused to visit a local old people's home, dismissing reports that staff and pensioners were ill after a Christmas tea as "food poisoning".

At the hearing last November Dr Brooks admitted two counts of professional misconduct, was found guilty of a further two and suspended.

The committee yesterday refused to put her name back on the register. They suspended her for a further eight months so she could improve her "general knowledge, typing and attitude to patients".

They will consider whether to reinstate her after she completes refresher training at a general practitioner's.

Most Anglicans loyal on women priests

By Staff Reporters

Although one in four regular worshippers opposes the ordination of women to the Church of England priesthood, not many of them would leave the church if confronted by a woman vicar in their own parish, according to a survey conducted for The Times by the MORI organization and published today.

A quarter said they would look around for another parish with a male vicar; one in 10 would stay with their original parish but attend less frequently; slightly fewer would consider joining another denomination; and one in 20 would stop going to church altogether.

Among the total sample, which consists of people who go to church at least once a month, more than half think that the ordination of women will have no

significant effect on attracting new members to the church — a potential benefit often voiced by the movement's publicists. Of the rest, those who envisage an increase in church-going outnumber by two to one those who think attendances will diminish.

An overwhelming majority — 70 per cent — of practising Anglicans support the forging of closer links with the Roman Catholic Church. But when those supporters were asked to choose between those links and the apparently incompatible aim of ordaining women, there was an even division, suggesting that the advent of women priests is not a foregone conclusion.

Yesterday, Professor David McClean, chairman of the General Synod's House of laity, said that time favours the supporters of the ordination of women in

the Church of England. In the first reaction to the poll, he drew attention to the finding that among regular churchgoers, younger people most favour women priests.

Professor McClean, professor of law at Sheffield University, said the survey had underlined the loyalty of ordinary churchgoers, who seemed prepared to live with whatever decision was made. It suggested that claims of a split over the issue were exaggerated.

"You must not underestimate the sheer love of the thing that regular worshippers do actually have. Some of the evidence quite clearly is that there will be many fewer leaving the church than one's sometimes been led to believe", he said. Spectrum, page 13

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When was property built? ☐ PRE 1837 ☐ 1837-1919 ☐ 1920-1945 ☐ 1946 on

Number of bedrooms? _____

Does property have an alarm? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does property have an alarm? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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Detached Garage? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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ALL IN DETAILS AND POST TODAY

Heysel accused was fund-raiser

I would be stupid to fight in Superman costume, says fan

A Liverpool football supporter told the Heysel trial yesterday that he went to matches in a Superman costume to raise money for children's charities and could never get involved in violence dressed like that.

Mr Andrew Sambor, a father of four who has supported Liverpool for 20 years, said: "Why would I go to a football match wearing a costume that is noticeable to thousands, to fight? That would be stupid of me."

Mr Sambor said he had raised "thousands of pounds" for children's charities by wearing the Superman costume at matches.

On the video film shown yesterday Mr Sambor was easy to distinguish because of his Superman outfit. He said he was only looking for lost friends as he roamed the terraces.

Mr Sambor, aged 31, of Whiston, Merseyside, a former foreman in a fruit and vegetable market, is one of the last of the 26 British supporters accused of manslaughter to give evidence in Brussels.

He told the court he played no part in rioting at the Heysel stadium before the European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus of Turin, when 39 supporters died.

He said: "May 29, 1985, should have been a happy

A Chelsea supporter described in a detailed study of football hooliganism how violence had become "like a drug". Knightbridge Crown Court, west London, was told yesterday. The study analysed those who took part and recorded weapons, including flare guns and sledgehammers, used by gangs. Written by Jeremy Bodkin, aged 22, it included accounts of fights between rival supporters, the court was told. Bodkin, unemployed, of Tooting, south London, denies charges of affray at Parsons Green and High Street Kensington Tube stations in 1985. The case continues today.

occasion. For thousands it was turned to tragedy. I feel very sorry for the victims, of course, but I feel like one of the victims now.

"My wife, my kids, my family, all they have been doing for the four years this has been going on is worry."

He said he had been a devoted Liverpool follower since the age of 12 and took his children to matches.

The judge said defence lawyers could call witnesses, including Mr Peter Robinson, Liverpool's secretary-general, and Belgian police officers and Brussels officials responsible for administration.

Mr John Davies, aged 23, of

Prescot, Merseyside, also denied being involved in rioting. He said he nevertheless continued to feel ashamed of being a Liverpool supporter.

On arrival at the Heysel stadium for the match, Mr Davies, a painter and decorator, joined other Liverpool supporters. When crowds surged across the terraces he was forced into Z section where Italian supporters had been placed, but only stayed there for a few minutes.

"After I freed myself from the crowd I was just looking around me. I could see little groups fighting and I was very scared."

"I only found out that people had died later in the evening. At that time and now I feel very ashamed to be a Liverpool supporter", Mr Davies said.

Mr James Wallace, aged 28, a former trainee dental technician from Bury, Greater Manchester, said he had been on the running track in front of the terraces during the trouble.

He saw the fighting but was not involved. He went to the police after seeing his photograph in a newspaper.

"I can only echo the sympathy for the Italian fans and their families and apologize to my family for dragging them through this ordeal", he said. The case continues.

Firearms for the furnace



An electro-magnet lifting firearms to be melted down at S H Lloyds in Wednesbury, West Midlands, yesterday. The firearms were handed in to police after an amnesty on weapons.

Student union's day of protest over loans plan

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

Members of the National Union of Students will walk out of university and polytechnic classes tomorrow in protest at government proposals for students' loans in higher education.

The union, which also opposes a plan to abolish the right of students to claim income support and household benefit, said: "There are going to be a number of events all over the country."

Sussex University students' union will conduct a mock trial in the refectory where witnesses will be "called to prove incompetence, shortsightedness and criminal neglect" by the Government.

Miss Naomi Goldstein, president of the Sussex union, said: "The introduction of student loans is the latest in a long line of attacks which are steadily weakening our education system."

The Scottish and Welsh branches of the union have organized marches through the centres of Edinburgh and Cardiff, while students at Southampton University, Portsmouth and Thames polytechnics, University College London, and Chester College, will disrupt classes.

Mr Graeme Campbell, spokesman for the National Union of Students in Scotland, said that mature students were especially worried by the implications of the White Paper.

"Many of them have been saying that they will have to reconsider their plans to go to university because they may

lose up to £1,000 a year in their benefits are cut off."

The Government had made no provision for the four-year Scottish degree course and there was a danger that high-quality Scottish students would have to pay for only three years' study, Mr Campbell said.

"If the number of students from the South coming to Scotland falls, Scottish universities will lose funds and will therefore become second class universities for second class students", he added.

The union has set up an information hotline in London on 01-272 8900 to deal with inquiries from students and parents.

It said that by the year 2007 parents earning the equivalent of £9,000 will be paying the entire maintenance costs for their offspring. At present the Government pays the full grant of £2,050.

"If we take a couple with one child and a residual income of £18,000, at present they pay £1,136 towards the upkeep of their child at college. Under the Government's scheme they would be paying the full amount within four years."

Miss Maeve Sherlock, president of the National Union of Students, will oppose Mr Philip Malcolm, leader of the Conservative College Forum, in a debate at the Cambridge Union tonight.

Mr Malcolm is proposing that membership of the union be voluntary.

Industrial waste

Ban urged on dangerous by-products

By John Young

A senior World Bank official yesterday called for an immediate halt to industrial processes which produce unmanageable waste until the producers had solved the problem of its disposal.

Little space could be left if 3,186 tons of New York garbage could be carried 6,000 miles by barge in four months and turned away by six states and three nations, Dr Robert Goodland, head of the bank's environment department Latin America division said in London.

Last year the United States nuclear regulatory commission failed to hire a long-term radioactivity dump, with

Nevada refusing a federal offer of \$100 million annually for 50 years to accept spent nuclear fuel.

Such high-level radioactive waste was accumulating from more than 100 power plants at 3,000 tons a year and remained dangerous for 10,000 years, he said.

West Germany's largest nuclear industry, Kraftwerk-Union, has agreed with China to bury nuclear waste in the Gobi Desert in exchange for nuclear technology. That provided no incentive to recycle, or to operate without generating undisposable waste, until all the world's deserts were overflowing, Dr

Goodland told a conference organized by the Royal Geographic Society.

Similarly with carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), enough might already have been released into the atmosphere to damage our life support systems.

Dr Goodland also made a plea for the liberation of women, which he said was essential to environmental sustainability. Women did two thirds of the world's work, produced most of Africa's food and yet they earned only one tenth of the world's income and owned less than one hundredth of its property.

Check-out 'disease' identified

By Kerry Gill

Thousands of supermarket workers in Britain may be suffering from a disease known as "Check-out Operators' Syndrome", which could cause serious problems in later life.

Particularly at risk are women operating supermarket check-outs, who process up to a tonne of groceries during a four-hour shift. The syndrome, which can lead to neck aches, tennis elbow and slipped discs, is caused by badly designed check-out.

Repetitive use of the left forearm and wrist and the lower back can cause long-term damage, according to a survey published yesterday.

Environmental health officers are concerned that teenagers who work part-time at check-outs may be storing up problems which will affect them as they grow older.

Mr Ian MacArthur, who carried out research into the syndrome for Edinburgh District Council, said many check-out designs used in Britain would be banned in some countries.

Tesco Stores said it was aware of the syndrome and was installing new check-outs.

Farmer accused of £1.4m drugs run

A farmer smuggled into Britain cannabis worth £1.4 million to help clear his crippling debts, a court was told yesterday.

Paul Fernihough, aged 42, allegedly set up a used tyre import firm as a front.

Hereford Crown Court was told the operation was uncovered 14 months ago when Mr Fernihough's partner, Keith Downes, arrived at Dover from Zebrugge driving a lorry with 1,000 used tyres.

A customs officer became suspicious after noticing gleaming nuts and bolts on an old 300-gallon fuel tank. He found almost half a ton of cannabis hidden in a false section of the tank.

While customs officers were checking the lorry Mr Downes disappeared and has still not been traced.

Mr James Orrell, for the prosecution, said: "Whatever men were involved were playing for big stakes and were reluctant to get caught."

Mr Fernihough, of Liveridge Farm, near Bewdley, Hereford and Worcester, owns the lorry. He denies two charges of fraudulently importing 455kg of cannabis.

Mr Orrell said Mr Ferni-

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Mr Orrell said Mr Fernihough's comparatively remote farm would have been ideal for unloading, storing and distributing cannabis.

The case continues today.

Dutch record set by Getty Museum

The Getty Museum paid the highest price ever at auction in The Netherlands yesterday when it spent 2.1 million guilders (£599,296) at Sotheby's on a rare drawing by Pieter Jansz, the Dutch seventeenth century artist.

Sacredam, which made triple its estimate, is a preparatory sketch of the interior of the Great Church in Haarlem, complete with grid of guidelines and perspective vanishing point. It was used by the artist when he transferred its

SALE ROOM
by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

composition to a painting of the same subject now in the Museum Narodowe, Warsaw.

Other outstanding prices included that of £106,900 (ten times estimate) for the only known drawing by Frans Crabbé van Espleghem, the 16th century printmaker. In

London, Sotheby's achieved a record for any Indian work of art when a tenth century sandstone bust of Siva, the great Creator and Destroyer, sold to an overseas buyer for £319,000 (within estimate).

Siva was a highlight in a collection of related pieces sent for sale by a private collector and as Khmer sculpture rarely comes up at auction, there was speculation yesterday about its provenance.

Top lot at Sotheby's Geneva

sale of modern illustrated books on Sunday was the Gazette du Bon Ton, a fashion review dated 1912 to 1925 and including illustrations by such illustrious artists as Dufy and Erte. This sold to the American trade at SF 68,200 (£25,736), double its estimate.

Next week Christie's are to sell the medal awarded to Fighter pilot William Leefe Robinson, the first man to shoot down a zeppelin over England. It is estimated at more than £60,000.

Court sees dog fight on video

A video recording of an illegal dog fight was played in evidence in a court yesterday.

Two American pit bull terriers were seen fighting in a blood-spattered arena as people shouted encouragement.

The sequences were from an amateur video recording, allegedly made at Meadow Lane industrial estate, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, in January.

It was shown at Winsford Magistrates' Court in Cheshire where Kenneth Ryder, aged 33, of Brockstead Avenue, Bryn, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Greater Manchester, admitted causing the dogs to fight and Michael Thomas Brown, aged 33, of no fixed address, admitted assisting at a dog fight.

Mr Nicholas Coleman, for the prosecution, said one dog was owned by Paul Butler, aged 27, of Shore Close, Ellesmere Port, who at an earlier hearing admitted causing the dogs to fight and causing the animals to suffer. The other was owned by Ryder. Both survived.

The case continues today.

Christmas stamps out today



Stamps depicting the journey to Bethlehem (14p) and three shepherds (19p) are two in a group of five on sale from today to mark the Christmas season. This year's issue tells the story of the Nativity on a series of cards set up on a mantelpiece. The others in the series are at 27p, 32p and 35p. They were designed by Lynn Trickett, Brian Webb and Andy Thomas.

Defects 'should be revealed'

By Christopher Warnman, Property Correspondent

House sellers should be legally obliged to tell buyers of any defects in their property, the Law Commission's conveyancing standing committee recommends in a consultation paper published today.

Under present procedures, purchasers must find out all the facts while vendors may provide as little information as possible.

The committee says that is

unhelpful and time consuming and proposes that vendors should be under a legal duty to disclose all the facts about the property which purchasers would want to know. That duty would extend to defects, such as dry rot or adverse planning decisions, of which the vendor ought to know.

"In other words, the so-called caveat emptor rule (let the buyer beware) would be

reversed. Conveyancing should become a co-operative and quicker transaction involving honesty and openness in negotiations", the committee says in its provisional conclusions.

The committee has published *Caveat Emptor in Sales of Land* for lawyers and other professionals and *Honesty or Suspicion in Conveyancing*, a version for laymen.

British police join drugs fight in US

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

British drugs investigators are taking posts in Washington, DC, and Florida to strengthen links with American agencies fighting international dealers.

A detective chief inspector from the Leicestershire force is expected to join the British Embassy in Washington later this month, working with the national drugs intelligence unit at Scotland Yard.

A customs officer has been appointed to work in Miami with American investigators and federal task forces fighting huge importations of drugs into the United States, some of which could be

re-exported to Britain. The detective, a former specialist in drugs investigations, will liaise between American agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Agency and the FBI based in Washington and British forces. His posting is for three years.

The appointments are the latest in a strategy of building international links against the power of the smugglers. There are 13 British police or customs officers working round the world.

Two customs officers are based in South America to fight cocaine smuggling, four work in India and Pakistan to combat heroin and cannabis smuggling

while another customs officer is based in Cyprus to investigate Middle East sources of cannabis and heroin.

There are other customs and police officers in Spain and Portugal to match the rise of cannabis and cocaine trafficking across the Mediterranean or from South America. A customs officer is also based in Jamaica to monitor drug traffic.

The network of officers is seen in Whitehall as a forward defence in the drugs campaign. The Drug Enforcement Agency has three permanent agents in London and the American embassy also includes FBI officials and United States customs representatives.

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Prosecution service lawyers jubilant

DPP abandons appeal on use of unqualified clerks

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The union for more than 1,000 lawyers in the Crown Prosecution Service yesterday claimed a victory "greater than we had hoped to accomplish" after the Director of Public Prosecutions dropped his appeal against a ruling that his use of unqualified clerks to screen cases for trial was illegal.

He was contesting a ruling won by the union, the First Division Association, in the High Court last May over the use of CPS Civil Servants of executive officer grade instead of lawyers to screen prosecutions for trial.

But in an unexpected move yesterday on the second day of his appeal, Mr John Laws, counsel for the DPP, said that after a meeting on Friday agreement with the union had been reached.

Under this, a "case screening" scheme is to be drawn up under which all cases which come to the Crown Prosecution Service from police may be initially viewed by a clerk; but the crucial decision on whether they should proceed to trial will be the responsibility of a CPS lawyer.

The director has also agreed to pay the costs of the union both in the High Court where it brought the original action and in the Court of Appeal. The Master of the

The Crown Prosecution Service is achieving a higher rate of convictions in the crown court than that of police before the service was set up, according to the latest figures. Nearly four out of five defendants committed to the crown court this year have pleaded guilty or been convicted, the highest rate since 1982. Of all defendants committed to the crown court in 1987, 75.1 per cent were convicted. In 1988, from January to June, the figure was 79 per cent. Critics say the service has had a poor conviction rate. According to the figures there has been a steady rise in the number of defendants pleading guilty, from 61.8 per cent for the quarter April to June, 1986, when the service was set up, to 64.3 per cent in 1987 and to 67.5 per cent in 1988. At the same time the acquittal rate is dropping, from 14.1 per cent for the same quarter in 1986 to 12.8 per cent in 1988.

Rolls, Lord Donaldson of Lynton, with Lords Justices Dillon and Staughton, heard the appeal.

The agreement says: "The executive officer may make a recommendation as to whether a prosecution should continue, based on his view as to the sufficiency of the evidence and as to public interest criteria, and shall report that recommendation to an appropriate crown prosecutor."

It will then be for the crown prosecutor to decide in each case whether the prosecution shall proceed. In reaching his decision, the crown prosecutor is to have all material supplied to the CPS.

"But the extent to which he needs to refer to that material and the extent to which he places reliance upon the executive officer's recommenda-

tion are matters for his professional judgement."

Mr Green has also agreed that cases will not be allocated to a crown prosecutor in such numbers or in such a way as to preclude proper consideration of the evidence.

The union, which brought the proceedings because of concern that unqualified clerks were being used for the key job of the service — screening cases to see if they should proceed for trial — was delighted at the outcome.

The DPP had "conceded the principle that it had been fighting for", it said.

Mr Ronald Lindsay, secretary of the Crown Prosecution Service section within the union, said: "We are building a better service and this decision is indicative of it. It will encourage people to join

in the future." Mr David Twigg, former CPS section secretary when proceedings were begun and now a solicitor in private practice, said the initiative to settle came from the union.

"We took the view it was better for the future of the service if the matter could be resolved by agreement rather than by one side winning."

The union had achieved what it intended to. "I cannot imagine anything else we could have accomplished." The union had guarantees on the way in which the system would operate.

The DPP said in a statement that the object of the appeal had been, to test the previous ruling and to "ensure with certainty the limits within which such a scheme would operate".

It was his wish, he added, to "make optimum use of all his staff while freeing CPS lawyers to deal with the more serious cases".

The agreement, reached after "amicable" talks with the union, would enable the DPP to use "trained and experienced staff to carry out the initial vetting of the more serious cases... while recognizing the duty of lawyers to make the final decision on whether or not a case should proceed to court".

Ridley offers helping hand



Bricklayer's trowel poised, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, at the launch in London yesterday of a report from the National Economic Development Office urging faster completion of commercial building projects (Photograph: Marc Aspland).

Strike fall is helping popularity of unions

By Roland Radd
Employment Affairs
Reporter

The Government's success in reducing inflation and the decline in the number of strikes has significantly increased the popularity of trade unions, according to a report published yesterday in the *British Journal of Industrial Relations*.

In the face of economic and political adversity trade union popularity has risen from a net low in 1979 of 10 per cent to 40 per cent.

Surprisingly, the report shows that neither the decline in union membership nor an unemployment "sympathy vote" is the reason for the change.

Trade unions are becoming more popular? Unions and Public Opinion in Britain (British Journal of Industrial Relations, Vol XXVI, No 3, Basil Blackwell, 108 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JF, by subscription).

Drug meeting

Scotland Yard chiefs met yesterday to consider forming a special squad to counter the growing Acid House drug scene. They suspect the cult is being exploited by organized gangs of drug dealers.

Wasp attack

Leon Gerry, aged eight, who has cystic fibrosis, was recovering in hospital yesterday after being stung by a swarm of wasps after disturbing a nest while playing outside his home in Pendennis Road, Forquay, Devon.

Abuse charges

Patrick Leisan, aged 16, and Manuel Dittmers, aged 27, West German students, were remanded on unconditional bail at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, after they denied displaying a sign that was threatening, abusive or insulting at Sunday's Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph in London.

Crash victims

Seventeen people were injured yesterday in a crash in Bootle, Merseyside, involving a car and a bus full of children. Witnesses said garden walls were demolished as the vehicles were in collision at a junction.

Euro rail plan for Liverpool

By Ian Smith

International consultants will shortly begin a feasibility study to determine whether Liverpool, once the main transatlantic port, can become the focal point of a European landbridge linking Europe with American and Canadian manufacturing and marketing centres.

Investment, either by British Rail or private companies, will enable the landbridge to carry shipments of cargo through the Channel tunnel to destinations throughout Europe.

Preliminary surveys in-

dicating the landbridge will mean huge savings in transport time and freight movement costs.

The Department of Transport, which sees the project as a possible solution to worsening road congestion, is monitoring its progress. Crucial to success of the venture is the immediate modernization of the rail system and introduction of electrified lines.

If the envisaged rail network reached fruition goods would reach Lille in 10 hours, Dusseldorf and Paris in 14 hours and Vienna and Milan

seven hours later. Commuters facing frustrating delays and overcrowded trains would also benefit.

Rail cargo traffic would be removed from the central London lines to a route running from Birmingham and Coventry through Leamington, Banbury, Oxford, Reading, Redhill and Tonbridge.

Central role in the venture would be taken by Euro-Landbridge, whose chairman is Mr Robin Morris, a transport consultant. He is working with the government departments.

RUC blitz yields 3,500lb of explosive

Over the past five weeks security forces in Northern Ireland have recovered 3,500lb of explosive, almost 6,000 rounds of ammunition, 13 guns and six rocket grenades or mortar launchers.

The equipment was found during searches which have covered 1,100 buildings and open areas and almost 700,000 vehicles checked at road blocks, the Royal Ulster Constabulary announced yesterday.

Over the same period, 66 people had been arrested and charged with terrorist offences, including 14 charged with murder or attempted murder.

The RUC was quantifying the efforts and results of what has clearly been a period of intense police and army activity, with the forces more evident on highways and byways throughout the

province and in its urban areas than for some years. Calling for continuing public vigilance to help to defeat the terrorists' campaign, the RUC said: "We know the Provisional IRA, North and South, is still in possession of considerable caches of arms and explosives as a result of shipments to the republic from Libya. That being so, the danger to the community will persist in the weeks and months ahead. The Provisional IRA is as intent as ever on murder and destruction, including the use of car bombs."

Taking into account the weapons and explosives recovered during the past five weeks, the RUC said that so far this year it had found 438 guns, 90,000 rounds of ammunition and about 9,600lb of explosive with a further 8,300lb being recovered from bombs that had been

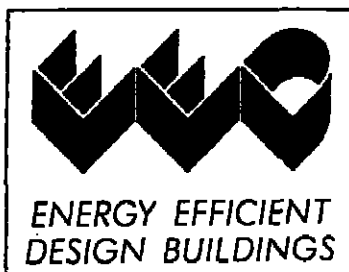
made safe. Over half a ton of Semtex high explosive had been detonated by terrorists and a further 200lb recovered.

The police statement was described by Mr Martin McGuinness, a Sinn Féin executive member, as a cynical attempt to defend the indefensible. "After five weeks of wanton destruction, after five weeks of wrecking and the imposition of martial law on entire nationalist communities, the RUC clearly believes its actions must be publicly justified."

Mr Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin president, is calling a press conference in Belfast today to discuss what Sinn Féin calls the "balance sheet" of the Hillsborough Treaty signed three years ago. "The Treaty failed on every single count," he said. "It increased security co-operation between Dublin and London," the party said.



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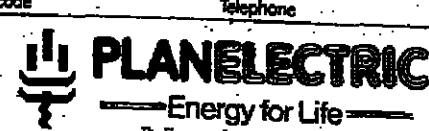
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WORLD ROUNDUP

Fingerprint order for the Marcoses

Washington (Reuters) — The US Supreme Court yesterday ordered the former President of the Philippines, Mr Ferdinand Marcos, and his wife Imelda to obey subpoenas for foreign bank records and other evidence for the grand jury investigation into their activities. The court refused to block a lower court order requiring the Marcoses to give their fingerprints, handwriting samples and voice prints and to release their foreign bank records.

Lawyers had asked the court to set aside the order on grounds that the couple retained diplomatic immunity and the grand jury lacked authority to issue the subpoenas. The Marcoses must now comply or face possible imprisonment.

Canada poll see-saw

Ottawa — Canada's federal election next Monday is turning into a neck-and-neck race between the ruling Conservatives and the Liberal Party (John Best writes). A Gallup poll yesterday gave each 35 per cent and the left-wing New Democratic Party 26 per cent. Fringe candidates and parties accounted for the other 4 per cent, while 8 per cent were undecided.

The poll could be ominous news for the Liberals, since it indicated a marked slide in their fortunes from the previous Gallup survey only a week earlier. At that time the Liberals were ahead of the Tories by 43 per cent to 31.

Dubcek defends case

A visibly irritated Mr Alexander Dubcek yesterday drove home his criticisms of the Czechoslovak regime and dispelled any suspicion that he was muzzling himself or toying down his political comments during his visit to Italy (Our Foreign Staff writes). The last-minute omissions from his prepared speech to the University of Bologna on Sunday were because he had been asked to shorten it. "I am not the sort of person who changes his mind overnight," he said.

Meanwhile, in Prague, more than 20 dissidents detained for up to four days to prevent the holding of an independent symposium, were freed yesterday as the Communist Party daily denounced the seminar as attempted "psychological warfare" against the authorities.

Goncourt winner

Paris (AP) — Erik Orsenna, a former cultural adviser to President Mitterrand, won the coveted Goncourt Prize yesterday for his action-packed saga of a young man's passion for his two sisters.

Set in the early 1900s, *L'Exposition Coloniale* combines adventure and irony in the picaresque style of Spanish and South American novels. The Goncourt, created in 1903, is the most important of the 1,500 literary prizes given each year in France. Although the award itself is worth only 50 francs (under £5), it guarantees huge sales.

Dutch police strike

Amsterdam — Almost the entire Dutch police force of 38,000 officers stopped work and took to the streets yesterday to protest against low salary and staffing levels and the Government's plan to redeploy large sections (Mark Fuller writes). Police stations were manned by skeleton staffs answering emergency calls only. In The Hague, 1,000 police officers marched on the Ministry of Home Affairs to hand in their helmets in protest. The police union warned of an all-out strike unless talks tomorrow bear fruit.

Angola talks progress

Geneva (Reuters) — South Africa urged Angola and Cuba yesterday to give more ground in US-mediated talks on withdrawing 52,000 Cuban troops from Angola in exchange for Namibian independence. The ninth round of the talks entered an unscheduled fourth day in a Geneva hotel. Mr Neil van Heerden, the South African chief negotiator, said they were ready to deal, but criticized US statements that agreement was close. The Angolan chief negotiator, General Antonio dos Santos Franca, said: "It is going well. We can reach agreement."

Kohl pays tribute to Nazi hunter

From Charles Bremner, New York

Chancellor Kohl of West Germany last night warned his countrymen and others that no explanations could dilute the enormity of the Nazi crimes against the Jews, and their biggest challenge was to convince young Germans that their country was worthy of patriotism.

The Chancellor was speaking to Dr Simon Wiesenthal, the veteran Nazi hunter, and a gathering of prominent Jews at the Wiesenthal Centre here honouring its founder's 80th birthday. No German government leader had previously addressed the centre.

Herr Kohl also restated his support for Herr Philipp Jenninger, the Bundestag speaker who resigned last week after the row over his Kristallnacht speech.

"We Germans have to live with the terrible fact that under the National Socialist tyranny, untold suffering was

inflicted on the Jews in particular and that this crime of genocide is without parallel," the Chancellor said after he had paid tribute to Dr Wiesenthal's "extraordinary" humanity.

The Chancellor welcomed recent indications from East Germany that showed it was ready to acknowledge its share of recent German history.

"For young Germans in particular, it is not easy to identify with, or even love, a fatherland to which the stigma of the Holocaust attaches."

Words of support for Herr Jenninger also came from Dr Wiesenthal, who said at the weekend that he was sure it had not been the former speaker's wish "to say something that could have a pro-Nazi or anti-semitic character". The speaker had been "a friend of Jews and a friend of Israel. I know the man. It's a great tragedy."

French condoms fail in Aids trials

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

The French Government's campaign to increase the use of condoms as the main defence against Aids has been severely undermined in the very week it was to begin.

With 100 million francs (about £10 million) earmarked for a nationwide publicity drive, comes the news that more than one third of the male *préservatifs*, tested by the country's leading consumer organization, would prove to be ineffectual in preventing transmission of a virus such as Aids.

In a report to be published shortly, the magazine *Fifty Million Consumers* also concludes that instructions about the correct use of almost all 41 brands of condoms surveyed were inadequate. In the light of the Government's publicity stated position that the *préservatif* offers the "only means" of preventing the spread of Aids in the worst-affected country in Western Europe, new findings will make it difficult to persuade young people to make wider

use of this contraception. According to the magazine, half of the condoms it examined were poor quality, but the most serious questions were raised by the failure of over 33 per cent to pass standard tests for permeability.

"The most important factor remains the use of condoms strictly according to proper instructions in any situation of potential risk," observed Professor Lac Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute (the man who showed the Princess of Wales around his laboratories last week).

In a purely French context, however, the main objective of the Government's publicity offensive is to persuade the male population to make greater use of *préservatifs*.

Recent statistics suggest that a mere 7 per cent of men regularly use condoms and breaking down attitudes is crucial in the campaign to educate the public about a disease which will kill at least 8,000 people a year in France by 1990.

Bush action called for on deficit to prevent world slump

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Leading advisers to President-elect George Bush said yesterday that he would move quickly to assemble his economic team, which he regarded as a priority to reassure the financial markets and America's allies that he is serious about reducing the country's \$155 billion (about £84 billion) deficit.

At the same time, the White House sought to calm international currency markets and to dispel the idea that there was a US "leadership vacuum" that made the dollar vulnerable.

Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said yesterday that the Administration remained committed to a stable currency. "The key to that stability is the economic policy co-ordination process, including co-operation in exchange markets," he said.

Mr Bush's advisers have acknowledged privately that he is well aware that he could become the Herbert Hoover of contemporary US politics if he does not find a bipartisan solution to the huge fiscal deficit. By this they mean that failure to act could result in chaos in international financial markets, a crash-landing

of the dollar, and another depression.

The President-elect was expected to announce as early as today the reappointment of his close friend, Mr Nicholas Brady, as Treasury Secretary. Mr Brady would work closely with Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State-designate, who would continue to wield broad authority over economic and trade policies.

Advisers to Mr Bush are

Washington — President Reagan and Mr Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet physicist and human rights campaigner, exchanged views in a short meeting at the White House yesterday on *perestroika*, the arms race, nuclear power and the prospects for Mr Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative programme.

deeply concerned about the reaction of international markets since last Tuesday, when he was elected. Wall Street has fallen by more than 60 points, and the dollar's six-week decline has accelerated. The market's behaviour was seen as investor scepticism that a deficit reduction agreement can be reached. Mr Bush is

under strong pressure to launch a series of "summit conferences" with Democratic leaders in Congress before he is inaugurated, during the critical transition period when his advisers believe he must convince investors that he can negotiate a bipartisan deal.

But Mr Bush's election promise of a kinder, gentler America will encounter the harsh realities of deficit reduction less than five weeks after his inauguration, when he has promised to send his first budget to Congress. Between now and late February, he must find the means of reducing by \$30 billion to \$40 billion a deficit projected to reach more than \$130 billion in fiscal 1990. It is a formidable exercise that could impose hardship on every US citizen and possibly alienate some of his closest supporters.

WASHINGTON: Mrs Thatcher arrives in the United States today for what amounts to a state visit, symbolizing the closeness of the relationship developed with President Reagan over the past eight years (Christopher Thomas writes). She is the only Western leader being accorded such treatment.

Shamir's time of triumph



Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, posing before a banner of the symbol of the state of Israel in President Herzog's office yesterday after agreeing to try to form a Government.

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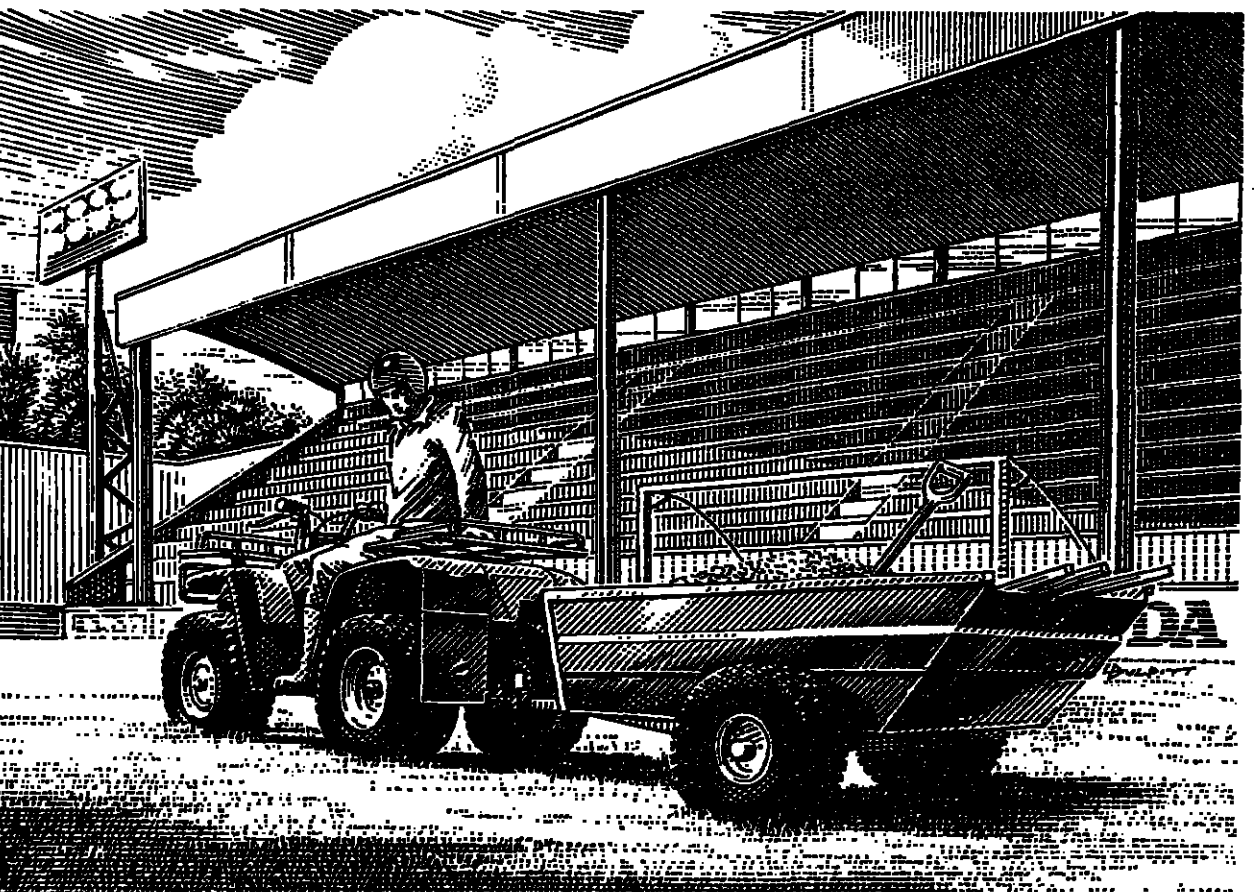
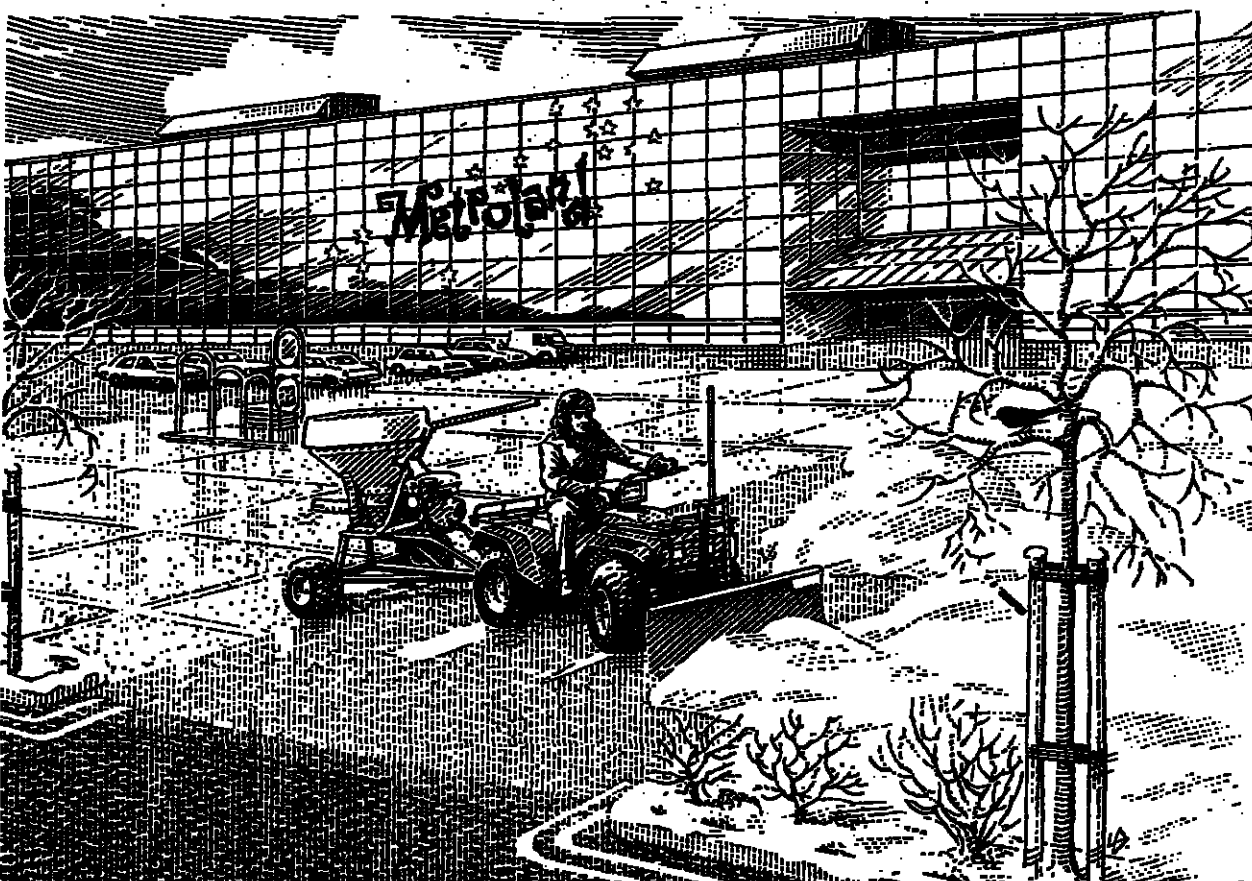
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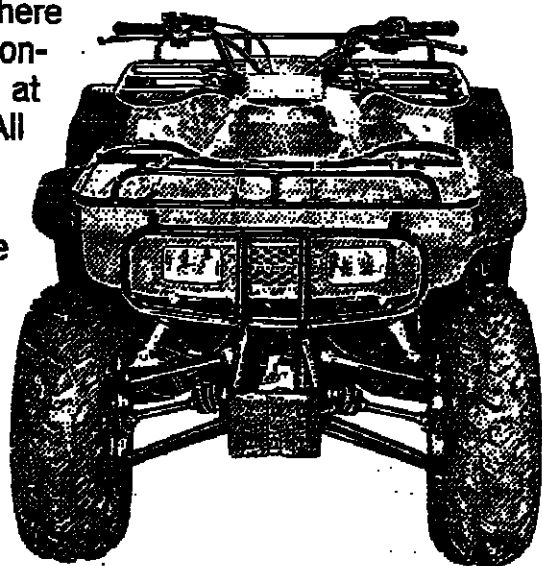
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Defence cuts 'risk for Gorbachov'

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

President Gorbachov would put his position as Soviet leader at risk if he tried to reduce his country's defence effort "drastically or unilaterally", according to Mr Christopher Donnelly, an expert on the Soviet military system, in a new book to be published today.

Mr Donnelly, director of the Soviet Studies Research Centre at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, said it was the Soviet Union's military strength which reinforced its claim to "a place at the conference tables of the world". It was also only in terms of military strength that the Soviet Union had been able to project itself as the equal of the United States.

"This is an achievement which General Secretary Gorbachov has committed himself and the Communist Party to maintaining... It will be very hard for Gorbachov or any of his successors to reduce Soviet investment in defence without the justification of having negotiated a visible corresponding reduction in Western defence expenditure so that the correlation of forces is maintained," Mr Donnelly said.

The warning of unchanging attitudes within the military and the dominance of the defence industries in the Soviet economy, puts into perspective the dreams of some Western political leaders that the new era of *glasnost*



President Gorbachov being greeted with gifts of bread and salt at the Russian town of Oryol yesterday, where he called at a conference of Communist Party leaders for wide-ranging agricultural reforms to tackle the country's chronic food shortages.

and *perestroika*, initiated by Mr Gorbachov, will see a significant switch in Soviet resources from defence to civilian programmes.

Mr Donnelly added: "What will certainly complicate any effort to reduce defence investment is the fact that the

defence industries can justly claim to be the most effective and dynamic element of the Soviet economy."

Mr Donnelly warned that even if Soviet defence spending stopped growing, it was now so large that it would allow substantial upgrading of

military capabilities in many areas.

But Mr Gorbachov had reached a "degree of agreement" with senior military leaders on the need to reallocate scarce resources from the defence to civilian areas of the economy, on the basis that

this would be the only way of keeping pace with the technological revolution in the West.

* *Red Banner, the Soviet Military System in Peace and War*, by Christopher Donnelly, published by Jane's Defence Data, £30.

Revitalized WEU set to become voice of Europe on joint security policy

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Spain and Portugal yesterday joined the Western European Union, marking an important step towards the development of European defence policies within the Western alliance.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, described it as "an historic day for Europe" at an accession ceremony in London.

The enlargement of the organization from seven to nine countries places it in a stronger position to speak for Europe at a time when Washington is urging the West to accept a greater share of alliance defence costs.

Although the WEU is seen by London as the European pillar of Nato, France and some other countries feel that in the longer-term it may emerge as a more specifically European defence apparatus.

Some view it as a potential substitute for the defence body which the European Community lacks. But the WEU and the EEC are destined to remain separate, at least on paper, because WEU members have to belong to Nato.

France, it refuses to participate in Nato's integrated command, but unlike France it is not a nuclear power in its own right and is unwilling to have Nato warheads on its territory.

Despite these problems the accession negotiations moved quickly when Britain took over the presidency of the WEU in June. Madrid agreed to accept all the terms of the Brussels Treaty of 1948, the document which led to the WEU's creation in 1954.

Both Spain and Portugal have accepted that defence should be based on a mix of conventional and nuclear weapons, and both have agreed to Article V of the treaty, which requires members to come to the aid of any other member in the event of an attack. But Spain secured a concession that for the time being it will neither participate in the integrated command nor accept nuclear warheads on its territory.

Sir Geoffrey, in a speech addressing his Spanish and Portuguese counterparts, Señor Francisco Fernández-Ordóñez and Senhor João de Deus Pinheiro, said: "We have been greatly encouraged by what you have said. Both your countries have made clear your willingness to ac-

cept and implement the modified Brussels Treaty."

But he implicitly emphasized Britain's view of the WEU as a pillar of Nato by saying: "You both see the alliance as the fundamental instrument of Europe's collective defence now and in the future."

The WEU had little practical importance for 30 years until its revival at the initiative of the French three years ago. But when the seven foreign ministers met at The Hague in 1987 and committed themselves to seek a common defence identity for Europe, it gained greater recognition.

Until this year it had acted mainly as a think tank and discussion forum. But the decision earlier this year of five EEC states with naval units in the Gulf to work together was taken as a result of discussions at WEU meetings.

Sir Geoffrey described the WEU's decision to invite Portugal and Spain to join as "further evidence of the organization's successful revitalization".

He added: "As a club of nine, we will be well placed to face the challenges of the 1990s in the security field."

Leading article, page 15

Baltic leaders told to take firmer line with nationalists

Moscow (Reuters) — Leaders of the Soviet Baltic republics have been told by three Politburo members from Moscow to take a firmer line against nationalists opposed to the Kremlin's constitutional reform plans, Novosti news agency said yesterday.

The warning came ahead of an emergency session of the Estonian Parliament tomorrow which could put the republic on a collision course with Moscow because nationalists want the constitutional changes rejected.

Novosti said the Politburo men — Mr Viktor Chebrikov, Mr Vadim Medvedev and Mr Nikolai Slyunkov — who were sent to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on Friday, had told local Communist Party leaders to "formulate more precisely their attitude to current trends".

"The discussions in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia have shown that Moscow is not going to allow extremists to destroy the gains of socialism in these republics," it reported. "There is every reason to believe that the leaders of the Baltic republics will work out a more resolute approach to existing problems."

The Politburo emissaries went to the three republics, which were independent states between the two world wars, in response to growing unrest over the constitutional proposals. The reforms provide for a Soviet Parliament with more than rubber-stamp powers and an executive presidency. President Gorbachov has described the changes as central to his reforms.

The changes are due to be adopted by the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet Parliament, on November 29. But power-

ful mass movements — the Estonian and Latvian Popular Fronts and Lithuania's Sajudis — say they will severely limit the republics' autonomy.

Sources in the republics said 800,000 of Estonia's 1.5 million people had signed a petition against the amendments in what had become a "spontaneous referendum", and 1.5 million of Lithuania's 3.6 million people had signed a similar call.

The Kremlin appears especially concerned by the way that Communist Party leaders in Estonia and, to a lesser extent in the other two republics, have largely backed these demands.

Estonian sources said a commission under President Arnold Rüütel of Estonia, which has prepared an agenda for tomorrow's meeting, had proposed that Parliament should vote itself a right of veto over Soviet legislation in the republic. It will also be urged to make a declaration of the "sovereignty of the Estonian people".

Leaders of the Popular Front backed these calls on Sunday, but did not want secession from the Soviet Union, only the right to decide their own affairs within it, a spokesman said.

Previously scheduled sessions of the Lithuanian and Latvian parliaments this month are expected also to consider calls to reject the amendments and modify their own constitutions.

Russians, who make up about a third of the population of Estonia and Latvia, have formed their own "international movements" to oppose the Popular Fronts, which they accuse of excessive nationalism.

Moscow ready to dump Najibullah

From A Correspondent, Moscow

Soviet television has launched a vicious and unprecedented attack on President Najibullah that his days may be numbered," one diplomat said. The Mujahideen have already stated they will not deal with him.

Western diplomats say the Kremlin has been boosting the Afghan Prime Minister, Mr Mohammed Sharq, as a possible alternative. Although Mr Sharq is not a member of the Communist Party diplomats say the rebels have also rejected him as unacceptable and a traitor.

Last month the Kremlin appointed its chief trouble-shooter and Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Yuri Vorontsov, to the ambassadorship in Kabul. Almost immediately things began to change. Moscow moved in more firepower including medium-range Scud-B missiles and then suspended their withdrawal of troops until the military and political situation stabilized.

While trumpeting victories of the Afghan Army in the past, the official Soviet media has now started reporting crisis upon crisis.

But most of the reports had continued to speak favourably of President Najibullah until the *Panorama* programme. The TV attack came hours after Mr Oleg Baklanov, a secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee, completed a visit to Kabul and talks with President Najibullah and Mr Sharq.



Dr Najibullah: Under attack from Soviet television

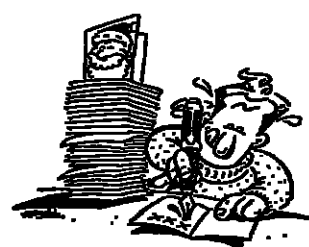
on the weekly current affairs programme, *Panorama*, Soviet commentators labelled President Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan as out of step with the Afghan population.

It said the party itself has admitted it was "alienated" from the people and the military and political situation in

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More to discover

Islamic parties tackle 'Bhutto glamour'

From Anatol Lieven
Lahore

The Islamic Democratic Alliance procession and rallies in Lahore yesterday, which wound up its election campaign, were considered by most observers to be a good deal smaller than Miss Benazir Bhutto's the night before.

Alliance leaders themselves admit, a trifle ruefully, that they do not have quite the same "glamour" as their opponent — but say that this will not make a difference to their votes.

The lorry carrying the Chief Minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif (Muslim League) and Mr Qazi Hussain Ahmad (Jamaat Islami) was however held up by thick crowds at several points.

The lorry, with a tall platform on the back hung with green Alliance banners, surged like a galleon through the throngs of chanting youths. Overhead a light aircraft showered handbills with the Alliance's bicycle symbol.

In the procession yesterday, groups of youths chanted "Nawaz Sharif for Prime Minister!" — something which, to say the least, has not yet been agreed on by Mr Sharif's fellow Alliance leaders.

Youths chanted obscene songs against the Pakistan People's Party and distributed a handbill with an extremely blurred series of photographs purporting to come from a Hong Kong magazine and to show Miss Bhutto, some years



A Pakistani bomb disposal unit checking the venue of a rally in Karachi before it was addressed by Begum Nusrat Bhutto.

ago, posing half naked by a Bombay swimming pool.

Alliance officials denied that their party had anything to do with this. It is certainly dangerous stuff in a Muslim country. On Sunday night People's Party workers had told me with grinning teeth that they were asking their supporters not to react to such provocation.

Mr Sharif has himself pub-

licly deprecated some of these tactics. The general strategy of the Alliance leadership, however, has been based on a form of "negative campaigning". Particular attacks on the People's Party have been relentlessly hammered home without much reference to proof. Last night in Lahore, the staff of Mr Hussain Ahmad said that he would repeat the charge that the People's Party

is in the pay of India and other enemies of Pakistan, and that it would bow to American and "Jewish" pressure and allow inspection of Pakistan's nuclear programme.

Miss Bhutto is also being linked in her speeches to her supposedly estranged brother, Murtaza, the leader of the "terrorist" group, Al Zulfikar. Muslim League speakers have repeated these charges, but

they have also emphasized economic achievements of the Muslim League's period in government. Last night, Mr Sharif was expected to point to rural and urban development programmes under his government. He has also been promising many new ones — something the People's Party says he cannot do, as the Supreme Court has ruled that his and the other Muslim

League provincial governments, being only "caretakers", cannot dispose of future funds, but can only pay civil service salaries and continue existing expenditure.

In her speech at 3 am on Monday in Lahore Stadium, at the end of her procession, Miss Bhutto declared strongly that she was the only leader who could stand in any constituency in Pakistan, unlike Mr Sharif, who could not venture outside his own province of Punjab. This made her, Miss Bhutto said, Pakistan's only national leader. At a press conference yesterday morning, after an entirely sleepless night, Miss Bhutto expressed confidence.

She said that she had been talking to former allied parties from the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy and others, about forming a "broad-based coalition government". She expected President Ishaq Khan, to follow what she called his constitutional duty and ask her party to form a government if it emerged as the largest party.

On relations with the Army, she said: "Realistically speaking, it is difficult for any civilian government to survive without the backing of the armed forces." Asked if she would cut military spending in order to reduce the budget deficit, she replied wryly: "Surely, if we wanted to invite martial law." This, observers are agreed, is something that neither main party wishes to do.

Campaign carnival

Sound and fury measure status of candidates

By Anatol Lieven, Lahore

Dust and dinners will be my main memories of this campaign — sometimes mixed, to the disadvantage of the latter: thick yellow dust churning out from under the wheels of the candidates' vehicles, the overloaded buses and trucks of their supporters, the scooters and motor cycles of their light cavalry escorts of flag-waving youths; and excellent meals eaten in the cool of the candidates' houses, or the air-conditioned interiors of their vehicles.

In public, the prestige of the candidates is confirmed by the size of their processions and the amount of noise they can make with their blaring campaign songs, as well of course, as by the size of the crowds who come to see them. These come largely for the spectacle — what is known in Hindi-urdu as *tamasha*, with overtones of the fair. The electorate participates in this intensely.

Waiting for hours for Miss Benazir Bhutto at a stadium in Lahore, youths break-danced before the platform, in between following the cheerleaders in chanting verses praising her and insulting the opposition.

These verses are in Urdu or Punjabi, languages particularly strong on colourful and striking imagery. They produce a political rhetoric that could hardly be more different from the English norm.

Some of the most enthusiastic participants in all these fund and games are too young to vote. At a village in the night near Multan, I saw a Pakistan People's Party candidate received by a chorus of infants, squawking in unison "Wazir-e-Azam — Benazir!" (Benazir for Prime Minister).

They were under the direction of a 10-year-old, who spent the rest of the meeting shooting bold, challenging glances at one of his elders, the official master of ceremonies, as they tried to beat each other to the draw on who was to shout "Zindabad!" next.

Such amusements may not be typical of Western elections, but they do tend to cement a feeling of kinship between the candidates and their supporters.

For all their air-conditioned vehicles, the landlord candidates are not simply westernized parasites living off their peasants. The people show the candidate their love and respect, and pray for his welfare, and he shows them his courtesy and generosity, and prays for them: to the masses, he gives music and entertainment; to his closer supporters — and Western journalists — he gives good dinners.

An uglier aspect of politics here is the cult of power

through violence or the threat of it. Guns are everywhere, even if they have not much been in public view.

Both sides have been restraining their supporters, as both want the elections to go ahead, at least until they lose. A rural candidate said: "I don't want to imitate the other side, waving guns and frightening people. However," he added grimly, "if they start trouble, I also have my boys."

These "boys" are sometimes whiskery old retainers — I met one carrying something that looked like an 18th Century hunting rifle. But there are

Karachi — Heavily armed troops were deployed in Karachi and Hyderabad last night and armoured cars were posted outside key installations in Sindh province (Zahid Hussain writes). Under electoral rules, the district administrations can halt further rallies until voting is completed.

also hard, youngish men, some of them trained in Japanese unarmed combat techniques for the days when the *Kalashnikovs* have to be left under the bed.

For mass violence, there are also the crowds of restless, unemployed urban youths, to be seen at the rallies of both sides. Given the high unemployment rate and the lack of mass entertainment in this society, it is perhaps surprising that they are not more dangerous.

The People's Party may have an edge in the size of these crowds. It does represent some kind of change, and is therefore naturally more attractive to discontented urban youths not won over by the Islamic social vision.

The leadership also has a different style from the dour, shrewd-eyed men of the Islamic Democratic Alliance. It seems rather more aristocratic in composition and because the candidates represent "secularism," they can be more frank in their westernized ways. This makes them a more attractive, at least to most Western journalists.

The sight of populist aristocrats leading urban mobs has not usually, however, been reassuring to the middle classes. The People's Party has been trying desperately to live down its past reputation, but, according to public opinion surveys, (for what little they are worth) without success.

The real temptation to violence will, of course, be on whichever party ultimately loses. But, on the other hand, neither wishes to provoke a return of military rule to the country.

Wider Falklands fishing zone urged

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

As Britain and Argentina prepared for their first diplomatic meeting in four years, a report published yesterday called on the Government to extend the fishing zone around the Falklands to 200 miles.

The report, commissioned from British experts by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation, said the extension, from 150 miles, was necessary to ensure the survival of the Falklands fishery, which is its main source of income. Conservation measures within the zone have been hampered by excessive fishing just outside it.

But the recommendation will be resisted in Buenos Aires, which strongly objected to Britain's unilateral decision in October, 1986, to declare the 150-mile zone. Until then, international fleets fished in Falklands waters without paying dues.

The decision that Sir Crispin Tickell, Britain's representative at the United Nations, and Señor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, should hold a meeting in New York soon would have been politically sensitive without additional sources of friction.

The Foreign Office has stressed that Señor Caputo sought the meeting in his capacity as President of the UN General Assembly, but observers do not believe he will miss a chance to discuss the future of the islands.

British ministers have been aware for months that pressure was building up in the islands for an extension of the zone, but have been quietly discouraging it. The tactic has been to argue that the conservation case remained to be proved and that more research was needed.

But the report, which followed a year of investigation by the experts, said extending the zone could "make an important contribution to

fishery management and conservation". It treated it as an important element in the overall development of the islands' economy.

The 150-mile zone has already transformed the economy, and the report says that national income rose three-fold between 1986 and 1987, with another 25 per cent rise expected this year.

But the rate of growth is now slowing and, to maintain momentum, more effective conservation measures will be required.

"The Falkland Islands are no longer dependent upon (British) aid and for the first time in their history have resources to make decisions about their future development," the report says.

That statement ignores, however, the fact that the Falklands remain dependent on Britain for defence at a cost which is equivalent to about £100,000 for each island inhabitant each year.

The national income is expected to reach £45 million a year by 1992, and £50 million in 1997, mainly because of fishing revenue. But the report comes down heavily against tentative earlier proposals for huge investment in a Falklands-based fishing industry.

An interim report circulated among the islanders in January included this idea among three options for development, but the islanders believed it would make their economy too dependent on a single industry. They preferred to leave the fishing mainly to traditional fishing nations and to use the income to diversify the economy.

The final report says that this diversification should include investment in agriculture, in fisheries "only when clearly viable", and in tourism. It proposes a transfer of about £7 million a year to reserves.

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EXAMPLE: A MARRIED COUPLE (BOTH AGED 30 AND NON-SMOKERS) REQUIRE A £100,000 ENDOWMENT MORTGAGE OVER 30 YEARS TO ENABLE THEM TO BUY A HOUSE FOR £200,000. AT THE CURRENT INTEREST RATE OF 12.75% VARIABLE (APRIL 1988) THE MONTHLY PAYMENT WOULD BE £1,070.85 (BANK OF ENGLAND'S OFFICIAL RATE OF 12.75% VARIABLE). FOLLOWED THEREAFTER BY 48 MONTHS OF £675.00 (GROSS). A MONTHLY ENDOWMENT POLICY PREMIUM OF £130.00 WOULD BE PAYABLE DIRECT TO THE INSURANCE COMPANY TOTAL ANNUAL CHARGES £324.72. ACCRUED INTEREST AND 113.50 FOR REPLYING THE MORTGAGE DEBT AT REDEMPTION (INCLUDING REPAYMENT OF CAPITAL) IT ASSUMES THE MORTGAGE STARTS MIDDLE OF JULY THE APR QUOTED IS VARIABLE WE WILL REQUIRE A FIRST MORTGAGE OVER THE PROPERTY LOANS ARE SUBJECT TO STATUS AND VALUATION. MINIMUM AGE IS 18 AND MINIMUM SALARY IS £10,000 PA. BUILDINGS INSURANCE WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED BUT WRITTEN DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY, HOME ADMINISTRATION, MOVE PARK, MOVE, EAST SUSSEX BN1 7AZ.

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Tamils massacre 28 as tension rises before regional poll

From Edward Gorman, Colombo

Tamil separatist guerrillas massacred at least 28 people and wounded two others when they ambushed a bus early yesterday, about 25 miles west of Trincomalee in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.

Police and army sources said the attack happened at about 8 am.

The sources said that the bus was ambushed by gunmen lying in wait on both sides of the road. Although details were unclear last night, it is thought the gunmen opened fire, killing the driver, and then either ordered the passengers out and massacred them or shot them as they tried to flee.

The victims included women and children. A policeman and a soldier, also killed, were travelling on the bus as guards.

Police say all the dead and injured were of the majority Sinhalese community, and blamed the main Tamil separatist group, the Tamil Tigers for the atrocity.

The massacre is the worst killing in the north and east since 45 Sinhalese villagers were shot and stabbed to

death in an attack on a village near Vavuniya, also blamed on the Tigers, on October 9.

Observers say yesterday's killings were intended to disrupt elections due on Saturday to a new 71-member council for the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

The elections are being supervised by the 50,000-strong Indian Peacekeeping Force, backed up by police flown from the Indian mainland this week, and represent the latest attempt by the Indians to implement an accord signed with Sri Lanka in July last year.

The council, to be based in Trincomalee, is designed to end the five-year insurgency by the separatists, granting limited devolution under a provincial Chief Minister.

The Tigers, however, remain opposed to the scheme and are boycotting the elections. They want Indian troops to leave and are insisting on a fully independent state.

The Indian response has been to back rival militant groups, in particular the Eelam People's Revolutionary

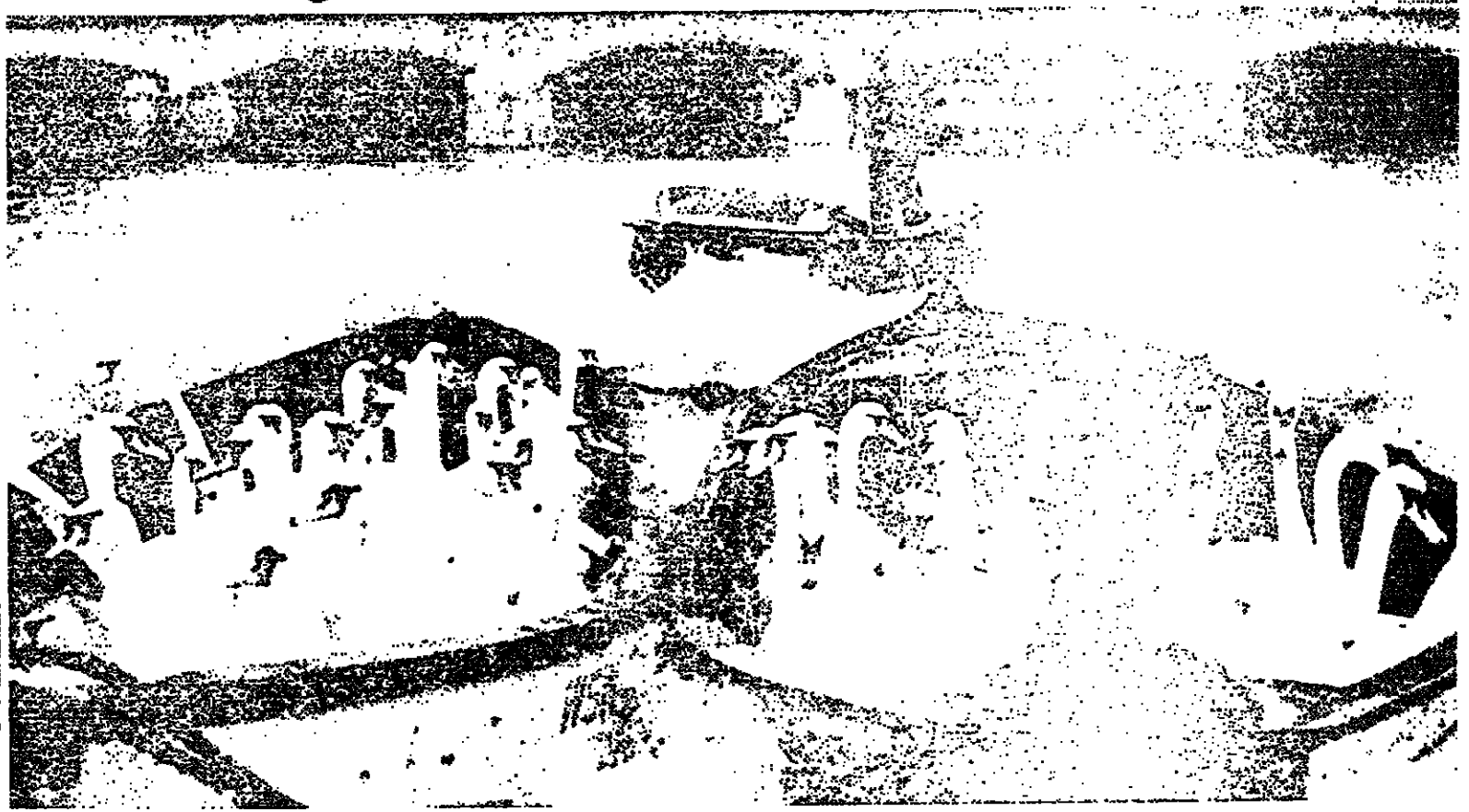
Liberation Front, whose candidates will be elected unopposed in the Northern Province. In the Eastern Province, there will be at least a semblance of an election as Front candidates compete with those put up by the minority Muslim Congress and the ruling, predominantly Sinhalese, United National Party.

With the Front leadership enjoying Indian military protection and taking the opportunity to launch attacks on the Tigers (attacks which Indian troops have participated in), the chances of the council leading to peace in the north and east are virtually nil.

Elsewhere in Sri Lanka yesterday, the campaign of violence and strikes by the Sinhalese nationalist JVP, or People's Liberation Front, continued with demonstrations in Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa.

A bus driver was shot dead in Kurunegala and in many areas shops were closed, with electricity and transport disrupted. Police said a soldier was among nine people killed by the JVP at the weekend.

Hamburg's swans move on to warmer waters



Hamburg's swans being moved by man-made means to their winter quarters on the outskirts of the city yesterday.

The swans, who suffer from the cold, make the annual exodus to warmer waters led by their mentor, Herr Harald Niess, the port's official swan-master (Anne McElroy writes).

The enforced exile of the city's mythical guardians started in 1950 — with specially-trained city employees

making sure that they have a safe journey in several small craft to their warmer winter home.

But they are unwilling exiles, and need to be coaxed into the boats. Of a total of 100 swans, 57 made the journey yesterday, and the others will follow later this week.

Their usual quarters are on the River Elbe and in Hamburg's canals, where they are held in high regard by city folk. Mr Niess has presided over

the annual exodus since 1950, accompanied by city employees who have been specially taught to deal with the unwilling exiles.

The lore of the city is that as guardians of Hamburg, the swans should be treated with delicacy and respect, and their good treatment was traditionally thought to protect the city from upheaval.

They will winter in an artificially heated pond on the outskirts of the

city, and will be tended by Herr Niess during their stay.

The swans have always suffered from the cold water during the onset of the winter in November. They will return to their city quarters in the spring.

During the swans' exile of more than three months, Herr Niess will monitor their health and the effects on them of water pollution, against which he is an avid campaigner.

Ruling party faces defeat in Brazil's mayoral elections

From Mac Margolis, Rio de Janeiro

A fiercely disputed electoral campaign comes to an end today as nearly 76 million voters go to the polls to choose mayors and city councillors for the cities and towns of Brazil.

In the fashion of Brazil's new democracy, there is no dearth of choice in today's polling: more than one million candidates from 31 parties are seeking election in all 23 state capitals and municipal governments in another 4,300 cities, from the *pampas* of Rio Grande do Sul to the rain forests of Amazonas.

Passions have run especially high during the campaign. By last weekend, federal police in Brasilia had logged 700 crimes, ranging from fights at campaign rallies to the murder of several leading candidates in the dead of night.

"Municipal elections always kindle highly disputed political interests, especially in the interior," a spokesman for the Supreme Electoral Tribunal in Brasilia said. "But given the number of offices and candidates, the scenario is normal."

But a great deal more than parochial contests is at stake today. Lurking behind virtually every big city mayoral campaign are the ambitions of Brazil's main political protagonists. All of them are keeping an eye on events with a view to November next year, the date of Brazil's first direct presidential election in 28 years.

Judging by opinion polls, there will be two big losers in today's polling. One is the beleaguered President, Senhor José Sarney, whose project of completing Brazil's transition to full democracy has been

shaken by an inability to achieve political unity as the country teeters at the edge of the precipice of hyperinflation.

The second is a federal congressman and presidential aspirant, Senhor Ulysses Guimarães — the symbol of Brazilian resistance during the military rule — whose political party split in two earlier this year, and whose remaining affiliates are themselves riven by dissent.

Above all, perhaps, this campaign is an illustration that in Brazil personalities speak louder than parties and platforms.

This is an election in which virtually every candidate, even those adhering to the official government party, is a self-declared member of the opposition.

"I'm with the opposition," declared Senhor João Leiva, a São Paulo mayoral candidate for the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB). Senhor Sarney's and Senhor Guimarães' own hammer.

"I'm a victim just like you," he said in a television campaign advertisement.

In 1986, the PMDB, the party that led the return to democracy after two decades of authoritarian rule, crested on a briefly popular economic reform to electoral victory throughout Brazil. The party won so many seats — 22 of 23 state governorships — that many political observers feared Brazil was heading for a one-party monopoly, like Mexico under the Institutional Revolutionary Party.

But, as most empires crumble from within, the PMDB has lost its stranglehold. The latest opinion polls show that the ruling party will probably carry only five or six of Brazil's 23 regional capitals.

The party that rose as the dynamic force of Brazil's modern, urban society may now be banished to discreet venues in the countryside and a few poor capitals in the conservative north-east.

The winners have arisen from Brazil's political fringe, especially on the left.

Right-wing forces are expected to score victories especially in the countryside, where large landowners hold sway.



Senhor Sarney: Failed to halt crippling hyper-inflation.

Schoolgirls alert

Peking (Reuters) — In the face of a huge crime wave, affluent parents of girls in Shanghai are paying young men up to 10 yuan a month (about £1.65) to guard their daughters on the way to school, the official *Women's Daily* said yesterday.

Tycoon held

Madrid — Señor José María Ruiz-Mateos, whose business empire was seized by the Socialist Government in 1981, has been re-arrested two weeks after escaping.

Joker's wild

Pistoia, Italy (AP) — Signor Ornerio Berti's imitation of a wild boar from behind a bush was so good that his brother shot and wounded him.

Tear gas veto

Seoul (Reuters) — A woman millionaire whose company had the exclusive contract to make tear gas for South Korean riot police is stopping production out of remorse.

Doing runner

Vienna (Reuters) — Police are hunting a marathon runner suspected of robbing banks, wearing a Ronald Reagan mask, who has twice escaped from their custody.

Japanese aid

Peking (AP) — Japan will provide medicine worth 20 million yen (about £88,000) to victims of the earthquake that devastated south-west China on November 6.

Sikh shooting

Delhi (AFP) — Sikh separatists shot three people, including a journalist, and police shot dead a Sikh militant in Punjab province.



*Rather more
Jannet said quite
than
mere brandy.*

J A N N E T

V.S.O.P. Armagnac

November 14 1988

PARLIAMENT

'Last effort' to find buyer for shipbuilders

A "last effort" to find a purchaser for North East Shipbuilders Ltd at Sunderland was still being made, Mr Tony Newton, Minister of Trade and Industry, announced in a Commons statement.

He said that none of the previous four bids for the shipyard had been found acceptable, but three clear expressions of interest in a possible purchase had been made in the past few days.

"We want to establish, by the end of this month, whether proposals can be developed which give a firm basis for negotiation."

"That would entail a clear statement of the work envisaged for the yard, evidence of the technical and financial capacity of the bidder and the prospects of arrangements likely to be compatible with the European Community Sixth Directive concerning state support for shipbuilding."

"These are not easy criteria to satisfy, as we have seen in assessing the earlier bids. No one should underestimate the difficulties."

"Nevertheless, I am convinced that it is right to make this last effort to find a viable way forward from NESL. I believe the House will share that view."

"During the past few days, British Shipbuilders have received three clear expressions of interest in a possible purchase of facilities at Sunderland, including the overseas concerns."

"In these circumstances, I have agreed with the chairman of British Shipbuilders that an opportunity should be allowed to consider proposals from these interests."

Mr Bryan Gould, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said that there would be very great relief at this further stage of execution for North East Shipbuilders Ltd.

Equally, there would be heart-felt hope that the minister recognized at last that merchant shipbuilding mattered too much to Weirside and to the British economy to be sacrificed on the altar of privatization (Labour cheers).

Would Mr Newton now say that his first priority was to

INDUSTRY

secure the orders, especially the Cuban order, which would guarantee the future of those yards and that this urgent and practical necessity would take priority over questions of ownership?

Would he guarantee that the contracts, if offered, would be signed irrespective of who owned NESL for the time being?

"Will he concede that what matters now to Sunderland and to the economy is to keep British merchant shipbuilding alive and that the dogma of privatization must now take second place?"

"We must now hope for more than the prolonging of a quite unnecessary agony, an agony of the Government's own creation."

"He must now summon up the courage to fight his corner in the European Community, override his civil servants, and depart from the course mapped out by his predecessors."

"He must concentrate interest on building a viable future for shipbuilding on Weirside so that they can take advantage of the upturn of world demand in shipping and continue to make that vital contribution to our industrial future."

Mr Newton said that the problem they faced, far from the yards being sacrificed on the altar of privatization, was rescuing them from the disaster of nationalization.

That had produced circumstances in which British Shipbuilders had overall cost the taxpayer something like £2 billion since 1979.

The shipbuilding contracts alone had lost £650 million, of which only £250 million had been within the permitted subsidy limits allowed within the European Community.

As far as the Cuban order was concerned, no one should underestimate the difficulty of securing an order of this kind against intense competition.

He could not hold out hope against the background of BS losses that there would be any question of BS themselves taking the contract in the way Mr Gould had asked.

"In the last few weeks, I have given clear evidence that my purpose is to find a way of permitting the viable continu-

ation of shipbuilding on Weirside if that can possibly be achieved."

Optimistic forecasts about the upturn in world shipping had been revised downwards.

Mr Robert Clay (Sunderland North, Lab) was genuinely grateful for the stay of execution he has given us today. I know he has been genuine within the context of the framework of policy he has inherited in trying to find a solution to this problem.

He should take an extremely robust attitude towards the European Commissioners. It should not be the case that the Commissioners in Brussels close British shipyards and the British Government has to say it is the Commissioners' fault.

Mr Newton: I can certainly undertake to take a robust attitude, but it also has to be a realistic attitude. All the relevant governments have a common interest in not having a subsidy war.

Mr Christopher Mullin (Sunderland South, Lab) asked if any study had been done into the social and human cost of closure compared to the cost of keeping the yard open for the Cuban order.

Mr Newton: We take account of all the issues that are involved.

Miss Joyce Quin (Gateshead East, Lab) said that British merchant shipbuilding had lost more jobs in the past decade than any other European Community country, if Britain was to be a credible part of shipbuilding in Europe, yards must remain open.

Mr Newton said that he would not agree with the accuracy of her first comment. All shipbuilding countries in Western Europe had experienced drastic reductions in their workforces in recent years.

Mr Edward Garrett (Walsley, Lab) said that Mr Newton should stop harping on about the amount of money that had come out of the public purse which was peanuts compared with the amount spent on the farming industry.

Mr Newton said that the question he was asked was whether the amount of taxpayers' money spent on the shipyard had been since 1979 would, with hindsight, have produced more secure jobs if applied in other ways.



Mr Tony Newton (left), who received advice from Mr Bryan Gould and Mr Robert Clay

Speaker refuses debate in benefits row

Opposition pressure on Lawson

The issue in the controversy over what the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said about pensioners' benefits was not the reliability of a Treasury tape recorder but "a trust which millions of people have put in the welfare state and around which they have organized their lives", Mr Gordon Brown, chief Opposition spokesman on treasury and economic affairs, said in the Commons.

That trust, he said, was one that Mr Lawson seemed intent on betraying.

He was unsuccessfully seeking an emergency debate on new evidence relating to the Government's intentions for means-tested benefits.

Mr Brown said that as a result of the unanimity yesterday in the House and the Chancellor's briefing and as a result of the independent corroboration of that record in a Treasury briefing last Saturday, the Chancellor had a clear duty to answer the specific and precise question put to him about his real intentions for the future of the welfare state.

He also had a duty to explain particularly his assertion that only a tiny minority of pensioners had difficulty making ends meet, that there was clearly a case for restructuring child benefit, and his view that for millions of pensioners, target-

ing, and therefore, means testing, was the way the Government was likely to go.

Mr Lawson should also explain why, if his sole aim was to provide more cash for poorer pensioners, he accepted that that would require "the education of his backbenchers". He had also suggested that journalists should examine the list of unpledged benefits that the Government clearly considered itself free to means test.

Since last Monday's failure to provide detailed answers, and Tuesday's appearance of the transcript, Mr Lawson had refused to give full answers to detailed questions.

"He has run away from facing a debate in this House and has now declined to answer the point-by-point rebuttals of his own statements which came from journalists in yesterday's press" (Opposition cheers).

By his refusal to answer, to have a debate or to give a satisfactory explanation for the absence of the tape, indeed his refusal to allow enhancement techniques to be applied to the tape, "he has done nothing to allay the fears... that the Government's objective is to move from a regime of universal benefits to a regime of universal means testing, jeopardizing for millions of pension-

ers security in ill health and dignity in old age."

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said that his sole duty was to decide whether the matter should be given priority over the business for today or tomorrow. He regretted that the matter did not meet this criterion.

Conservative MPs looked forward eagerly to the Department of Social Security's revealing proposals to increase benefits to the very elderly and worse off pensioners, Mr Timothy Yeo (South Suffolk, C) said

during Commons questions.

He told Mr Nicholas Scott, Minister of State for Social Security, that the strength of the Government's finances, as reported to the House in the autumn statement, had underlined "the enormous scope" for increasing these benefits.

Mr Scott remarked that all MPs would have read with interest Mr Yeo's article in yesterday's *Sunday Express*.

Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security, Does he agree with the Chancellor of the Exchequer that his backbenchers need to be educated about social security? Why should it be necessary to educate them on social security if all they were ever thinking about was more help for pensioners?

Mr Scott: I cannot comment on the apocryphal remarks attributed to the Chancellor.

Earlier, Mr Stanley Orme (Salford East, Lab) asked what consultations the Chancellor had had with his department before giving the briefing a week last Friday to certain lobby journalists.

Mr Scott: It is fairly well known that we discuss all these matters in the public expenditure survey each year, and we did last year and we will next year.

Family credit take-up 'still too poor'

The Government is still not satisfied with the take-up of family credit, and is launching new campaigns to improve it, Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Security, said during question time.

Mr Moore said that since the start of the new scheme, just over 400,000 claims had been received. At the end of October more than 248,000 families were receiving family credit.

In addition, on the latest information available, 56,400 claims were on hand, but in 36,400 of those they were wait-

ing for replies to inquiries to employers or the claimant.

Mr Field: By what date does the Government expect that it will achieve its 60 per cent target of take-up for family credit? As child benefit had been frozen in order to target resources on the poorest, if the target was to be met by the appropriate date, the Government should reconsider its whole strategy.

Mr Moore: He will be delighted to know that those figures are nothing like what I would like to see. They are not good enough. They are nearly 40 per cent and I would expect to see take-up

BENEFITS

encouraged by both sides of the House.

The Opposition had sensibly thought that family credit was an intelligent way to help families.

He declined to give a date for meeting the Government's take-up target because new campaigns to improve take-up were about to be launched.

The amount being spent was

in excess of that £400 million which they had thought might be available. That was more than double the expenditure on family income supplement (FIS).

Mr James Coughman (Gillingham, C) said that as an employer of part-time staff, he had never been informed of the previous FIS or of family credit, and FIS should be told.

Mr Moore said that the Department of Employment, he believed, had carried out a programme to draw the attention of employers, large and

small, to the opportunities.

Mr Andrew Mackay (East Berkshire, C) said that the Government's level of take-up could be improved if they could ensure that the mother was the recipient of family credit.

Mr David Wilepy (Caernarfon, Pl C) said that the self-employed on low pay, particularly in small-scale agriculture and tourism, faced difficulties in claiming family credit.

Mr Moore said that there had been some debate on the matter. The intent was to improve take-

Labour 'should be ashamed of itself'

It was the Opposition not the Government which ought to be ashamed of its record on child benefit, Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Security, said during questions.

He was answering a question from Mr Frank Blythe (Ashfield, Lab), who spoke of poverty in the nation today.

Mr Moore should be ashamed of backing Government proposals to freeze child benefit. "He is robbing babies, that is what he is doing. I have had a look at his background and he

was all right when he was a kid."

Mr Moore said that the Opposition should re-check the debates of 1975 and 1976 and the decision of Mrs Barbara Castle and others.

"And they should remember that [when] Labour was last in government, for families on average earnings, the value of the child tax allowance and the family allowance or child benefit, was in real terms, far below that which it has been under this Government."

Parliament's heaviest law-making session draws to a close

By Sheila Gunn
Political Staff

Royal Assent will be announced this morning for the final batch of Bills completed during a 218-day, 18-month session, the heaviest in Parliament's history.

The Government's 102 majority in the Commons allowed it to weather revolts in the Commons and warnings of provoking constitutional conflicts between the two Houses helped to defuse rebellions in the Upper House.

The main threats to the Government came from rebellious MPs and peers in its own benches.

Despite getting through many contentious and radical reforms in the first session of this Parliament, the new session beginning next Tuesday is likely

to be equally controversial, if shorter.

In the session now closing the following Government legislation was enacted:

Local Government Finance Act: the Government's "flagship legislation" replacing rates with the community charge, or poll tax, in England and Wales on April 1, 1990. It will follow the introduction of the poll tax in Scotland next April.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, survived revolts in both Houses when backbench Conservatives attacked a flat-rate poll tax, attempting to band it according to people's circumstances.

Education Reform Act: to phase in a national curriculum in all state schools and to bring in regular testing and assessment

of pupils. It allows parents and governors to take over their schools and greater choice of school for parents. Some schools have already voted to "opt out" of local authority control.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, gave in to pressure in the Lords to require that religious assemblies must be held daily.

Tory MPs succeeded in adding to the legislation the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority from April 1990.

Housing Act: the last big Bill to be enacted this session, it is due to receive Royal Assent this morning. Mr Ridley has predicted that its effects could be more far-reaching than those of the poll tax reform.

Its aim is to revive the private

rented sector and extend tenants' choice by allowing them to opt out of local authority control.

Ballots will be held so that tenants can decide whether they want their homes controlled by new "social landlords", such as housing associations.

MPs and peers disputed the ballot procedures which add voters' choice of "yes" or "no" in transfer voting. Mr Ridley agreed that if less than half the tenants turn out to vote, the estate will stay in local authority control.

He also accepted a Lords amendment to allow ballots for tenants on 16 of the worst council estates before they can be handed over to Housing Action Trusts for improvement.

Criminal Justice Act: brought in tougher penalties for a range of offences, including carrying firearms and those involving children. It abolishes the right for a defendant to challenge potential jurors without giving a reason and allows the prosecution to appeal against lenient sentences.

It also gives the victims of crime a better chance of winning compensation. Much of the legislation was before Parliament in the previous session, but fell with the general election last year.

Employment Act: the fourth branch of legislation to tighten controls on trade unions, forcing them to hold ballots before calling strikes. It bans unions from disciplining members who carry on working after a strike ballot.

Social Security Act: removes benefits from young people who refuse either a job or a training place.

Housing (Scotland) Act: similar to the Housing Act to increase tenants' choice and transfer many council estates out of local authority control.

Immigration Act: tightens loopholes in immigration controls.

Legal Aid Act: reforms the administration of legal aid with the setting up of an independent board from next April.

Land and Rural Development Act: to encourage diversity of use of farmland and more forestry.

Finance Act: brings in provisions of the 1987 Budget. Finance (No 2) Act: brings in provisions of 1988 Budget.

Licensing Act: to liberalize the licensing laws and allow more flexibility in opening hours. Although the Government did not intend to tackle Sunday trading, it accepted a Tory amendment made in the Lords to allow public houses to open until 3pm instead of 2.30pm.

Health and Medicines Act: allows health authorities to raise more revenue by leasing spare capacity to commercial concerns.

The most contentious provision is for a proposed £10 eye test charge and £3 dental examination charge, which sparked off the biggest revolts among Conservatives in both Houses this session.

The Lords removed the charges from the Bill in July. The Government's majority was cut to eight when it restored the eye test charge in the Commons and 16 for the dental charge.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Sec-

retary of State for Health, who inherited the dispute in the July reshuffle, went on to win backing for the charges in the Upper House after the Government's business managers imposed the second three-line whip of the session to bring in irregular attendees to the Tory benches.

Copyright, Designs and Patents Act: to reform the laws on intellectual property, the sale of ideas. It is due to receive Royal Assent today, although most of its provisions will be phased in gradually. It will give artists "moral rights" over the use of their work and better protection from distortion.

The clause added by Lord Callaghan of Cardiff comes into force immediately so that royalties from productions of J. M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* will again be paid to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street.

British Steel Act: to pave the way for privatization of British Steel.

Firearms (Amendment) Act: tightens controls on holding of weapons and makes it illegal to hold pump-action firearms after the Hungerford massacre. It emerged from Parliament virtually unscathed in the face of disputes by the shooting lobby in both Houses.

Local Government Act: to force

local authorities to contract out more services to the private sector. It also introduced the notorious clause 28 to outlaw the promotion of homosexuality by local authorities. The Government succeeded in getting the clause through both Houses in the face of strong protests from the arts lobby and lesbian activists in the House of Lords. The legislation also abolished dog licences.

Public Utility Transfers and Water Charges Act: to pave the way for privatization next session of the electricity and water industries.

Rate Support Grants Act: a last-minute measure brought in to stop creative accounting by local councils in the run-up to the introduction of the poll tax.

Regional Development Grants Act: to abolish the automatic right to regional development grants.

School Boards (Scotland) Act: sets up new school boards staffed by teachers, parents and local councillors.

Merchant Shipping Act: to make provision for a merchant marine reserve because of the decline in the shipping industry and tighten safety controls after the Herald of Free Enterprise ferry disaster.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, is to bring in his own reform of the secrets laws next session.

MPs' successes included making it a criminal offence to send poison pen letters and to pave the way for requiring children to wear seat belts in the rear seats of cars.

They also legislated to extend public access to information concerning community health councils, the land registry and environment and safety notices.

Legislation that did not make it through the difficult private members' Bill procedures still enabled MPs and peers to pursue campaigns and could lead to Government legislation in coming years.

Journal comes under fire

Sir Nicholas Lyell, Solicitor General, said that he would have a journal, *Choice*, published by Dowager Lady Birdwood, examined to see if it could be prosecuted under the Malignous Communications Act.

He was replying to Mr Greville Janner (Leicester West, Lab), who asked him to consider using the Act as a basis for prosecuting the perpetrators of anti-semitic publications sent through the post, such as *Holocaust News* and a journal called *Choice*, published and printed by Dowager Lady Birdwood. Copies had been sent today to the MP for Easington (Mr John Cummings) and other MPs.

Sir Nicholas said that if Mr Janner let him have a copy of the document in question he would have it looked at.

Pledge on Zambia debt

The Government was ready to cancel Zambia's outstanding debt and reschedule their export credit loans in the Paris Club, once Zambia set up an economic reform programme by agreement with the World Bank and the IMF, Mr Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, said in a written answer.

In an second answer, Mr Patten said that Paris Club decisions on eligibility for rescheduling were reached by consensus and on a case-by-case basis. The criteria were poverty, indebtedness, an agreed IMF adjustment programme and good record in paying interest on loans.

Sillars seat

Mr Jim Sillars, victor of by-election in Glasgow, Govan, last Thursday for the Scottish National Party, was introduced and took his seat. His sponsors were Mrs Margaret Ewing (Moray, SNP) and Mr David Thomas (Merionysid Nant Conwy, Pl C).

Steel sale

Lord Young of Gifford, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, refused to give an assurance in the House of Lords that he will not press ahead with the flotation of British Steel if stock market prices fall.

Parliament today

Both Houses meet at 9.30am. Royal Assent will be given for remaining legislation and prorogation then takes place. The new session opens on Tuesday November 22 with the Queen's Speech.

Correction

It was incorrectly reported on November 3 that Mr William Powell, Conservative MP for Corby, voted against the introduction of dental charges. He did not vote in the division.

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Handwritten text in Arabic script: "السيد محمد علي"

SPECTRUM

A church united in discord

WOMEN AND THE PRIESTHOOD

In the final part of his series surveying Anglican opinion, Clifford Longley discovers that

although the flock is divided, it is still charitably determined to avoid a schism and not too concerned with the sex, the opinions or the consciences of priests

Part 2: Taking action

Opponents of women priests sometimes like to give the impression that they will leave the Church of England if women are ordained, probably to become Roman Catholics, and those who do not leave will cover in ecclesiastical "no-go" areas where women priests will not be allowed to operate. Those two possibilities may have persuaded many others that any decision must be put off indefinitely.

The Times/MORI survey of opinion among regular church-goers demolishes these predictions. We asked opponents of women's ordination what they would do if a woman was appointed vicar of their parish. By far the largest response — 42 per cent of opponents — was to say they would stay with their parish, and continue to attend church as regularly as before.

Another 23 per cent of opponents would look for another Church of England parish which still had a male vicar. Nine per cent would stay with their original parish but attend less often, 5 per cent would stop going to church, and 7 per cent would consider joining another denomination (half of these mentioned the Roman Catholic Church).

The Ordination of Women Measure now being processed through the synodical machinery envisages that each diocesan bishop should have the right to refuse to appoint or ordain women priests. So in some dioceses women priests would not be allowed to operate. This "conscience clause" is primarily designed to protect bishops who are against women priests on principle. But of the laity on the same side of the issue as such bishops, less than half — 47 per cent of them — agree with the clause, and almost as many — 41 per cent — are definitely against it. Less surprisingly, four out of five of those supporting women priests oppose a "conscience clause".

Those who oppose women priests are even more against "no-go" areas. Most of them, 53 per cent, thought parochial church councils should not have the right to impose a local block on the appointment of a woman, as the draft measure envisages. Again, four out of five of the supporters of women priests also disapproved of such an idea.

This strongly suggests that "no-go" areas and conscience clauses are unacceptable to both sides; and it equally suggests that those who are against women priests are quite prepared to be good losers. But the same loyalty is present the other way round. If the General Synod does permit "no-go" areas at diocesan and parish level, how would the supporters of women priests react if they found themselves inside such an area? Only 9 per cent say that they would seek another, more con-

genial parish, presumably one with female clergy. Three quarters would stay and attend church as often as before. Virtually none of them would leave. A rather mysterious one in 10 of the supporters of women priests say they would even attend their "men only" parish church more often, presumably increasing their efforts to encourage change.

It is at this point in the survey that one begins to suspect that feelings do not run quite as deeply as they are usually presumed to do, on either side. Perhaps the laity are not very concerned about their clergy after all — their sex, their consciences or their opinions.

More than half, 52 per cent, did not even know what their own clergy thought about women priests. Three per cent said their clergy influenced them a great deal, 9 per cent "a fair amount", and 13 per cent "a little". More than two thirds said "not at all".

Together with the Ordination of Women Measure, there is a parallel measure to enable clergy who resign over women priests to be paid off, at something like an average of £30,000 each. The laity are not impressed. Only 20 per cent favoured financial compensation and 69 per cent disapproved. Again there was not a lot of sympathy for such clergy even among lay people who agreed with their opposition to women priests. Nearly half — 47 per cent — of the opponents of women's ordination were against clergy being compensated if they resigned. Only 38 per cent favoured compensation. To put it crudely, if they are prepared to like it or lump it, they expect their clergy to do so too. Four out of five of the supporters of women priests were also against compensation.

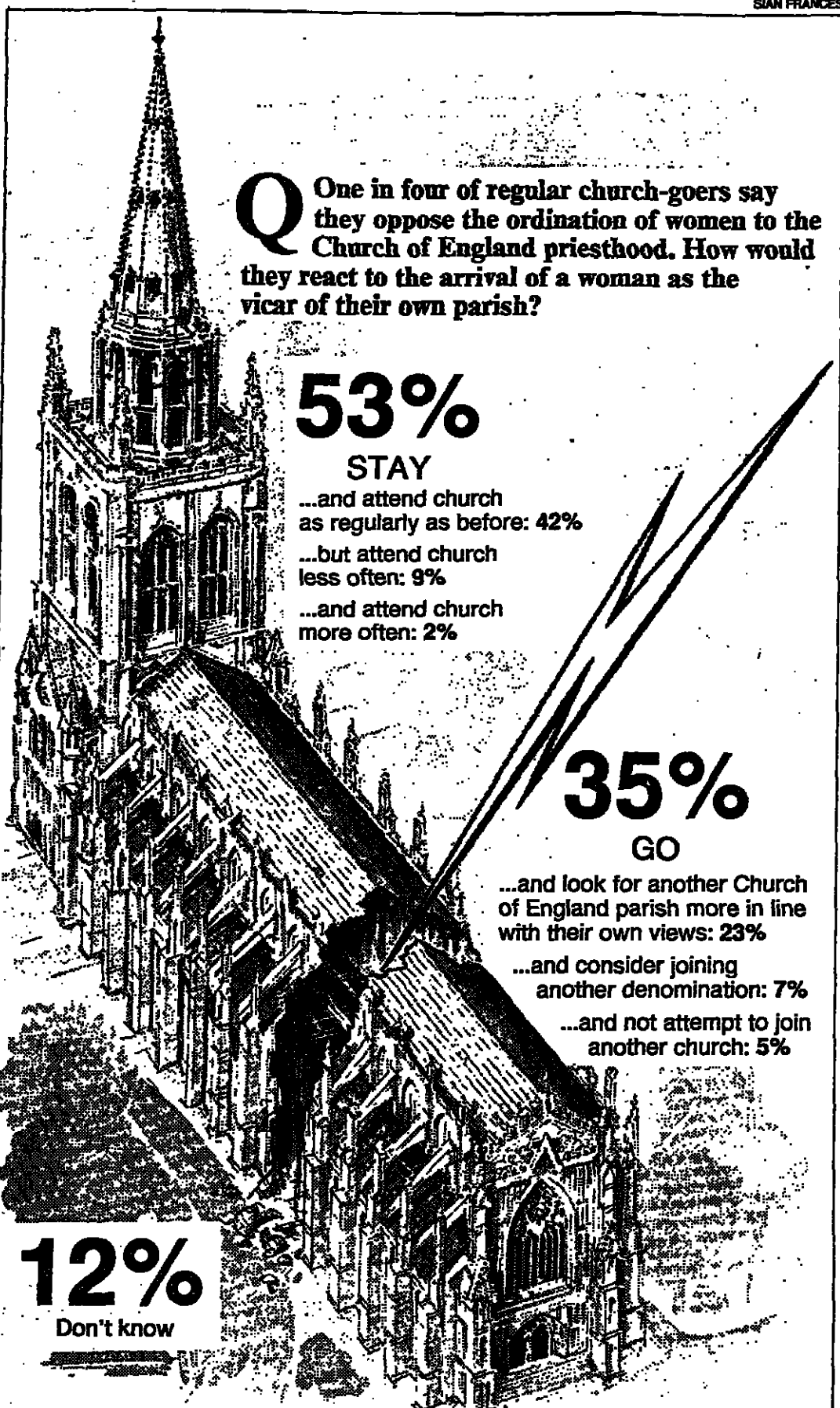
The MORI survey also discovered that weekly church-goers were less in favour of women priests (55 per cent) than those attending once a month but less than weekly (64 per cent).

Opposition to women priests in the "weekly" group rose to 32 per cent, while in the "monthly" group it fell to 18 per cent. The "weekly" group was also more likely to cite theological reasons for their opposition. Politically and theologically, they were more conservative than the monthly group.

There was one other stray statistic collected by MORI, concerning political affiliation, which also points to a general cultural gap between the clergy and the laity. It is an established fact, repeatedly found in surveys of opinion among the clergy themselves, that they tend to be against the Conservative Government. MORI found that 63 per cent of lay members of the Church of England support the Conservatives, which even allowing for sex, class and age, is exceptional — and contrasts with the 43 per cent who supported the Tories at the last General Election.

One of the key issues in the debate about women priests is the influence their ordination would have over the future of Anglican relationships with the Roman Catholic Church. The relationship could already be described as close, and the survey asked whether it should be closer still.

Some 70 per cent agreed (with 14 per cent against), more agreeing among the weekly church-goers than those who attend less than once a week but once a month or more. There is substantially more agreement in the Church of England about wanting better relations with Roman Catholics, therefore, than about women priests. What was unexpected — and contrary to a common myth



in the church — was that that this pro-Roman Catholic feeling was stronger among those who supported the ordination of women than those who opposed it, even though the Roman Catholic Church is opposed to ordination.

This correlation between those supporting closer links with the Roman Catholic Church and those supporting women priests suggests many of them face a difficult decision. So the survey put the hypothetical choice between the two things they wanted. Of those wanting closer relations with Rome, 40 per cent would give that priority over women priests, while 39 per cent would not — an even split.

But they are by no means all persuaded that such a dilemma really exists. Of those who favoured closer links with Rome, 24 per cent thought the ordination of women would make no real difference. This figure rose to 29 per cent among those supporting women priests. Overall, only three out of five of those in favour of closer links with the Roman Catholic Church appeared to believe that the church's own warning that the ordination of women would make things more difficult.

This survey has opened up the argument in a number of unexpected ways and it strongly suggests that theological factors will ultimately not be the deciding ones. Unfortunately it is not possible to discover how rigid or fluid opinion is. Young people, as might be expected, are more in favour of women priests than older ones — but they may become more conservative as they get older.

And as far as the General Synod is concerned, though it is not markedly out of line with opinion among the laity, its members are older, more likely to be male, and more likely to attend church weekly — all factors which this survey finds are linked with lower levels of support for the ordination of women.

One in four of regular church-goers say they oppose the ordination of women to the Church of England priesthood. How would they react to the arrival of a woman as the vicar of their own parish?

PRINCIPLES AND THE PRAGMATISTS

The reluctant conversion

A picture of a church troubled by a clash of deeply-held convictions, but fundamentally resolved not to let the issue threaten its unity, emerges from The Times/MORI survey.

Many of those who support change stress the need to move in a way that commands the widest possible support. Opponents show little interest in the creation of enclaves of traditional practice, or financial compensation for clergy whose consciences force them out of the church.

Most of the opponents I spoke to gave the impression that they are virtually resigned to losing sooner or later. "I think women will be ordained. Perhaps not at the next General Synod, but possibly at the one after," says Mrs Connie Sinclair, of Folkestone, who is married to a priest. "I'm an opponent, and very unhappy about it."

Mrs Jan Fletcher, of Porthcawl, Glamorgan, says: "I don't know whether it will come possibly not. At this moment it's divisive, and it is a bit of a nuisance, but it will come in God's time, not man's."

Mrs Nancy Walford, a pensioner living in Reigate, Surrey, is a member of the church-going rank and file. She opposes the change, but thinks that "in time it is going to come — the country will change its mind".

Mr David McCarthy of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, is a churchwarden with a strong conviction that the ordination of women is wrong. He expects the proposal to fail at the next synod, but is fearful of a *trahison des clercs* in the future.

Three of these four say that they would be forced to reconsider their membership of the Church of England if the change was made and all three attach high importance to links with the Roman Catholics. The survey shows that this problem is widely seen as a significant drawback of change, by supporters as well as by opponents.

But even those supporters who claimed to favour closer links with Roman Catholicism did not show a clear majority for giving this aim priority over the ordination of women. "I believe in unity with the Catholics, but if it came to a choice, I wouldn't vote against

women for the sake of it," says Mrs Avril Hardaker, of Ripon, North Yorkshire.

Mr McCarthy, a long-standing convert from Roman Catholicism, would be faced with a dilemma on the event of a decision to ordain women. "Logically the decision ought to confront me as soon as the church accepted the principle, but I suspect I might stay unless something happened which affected me directly."

Mrs Walford is more pragmatic, and more typical. "The issue is fairly important, but I'm elderly, and I don't think I could travel to another parish if a woman was appointed in mine. I think I'd have to go along with the majority."

In invoking "the majority", she touched on a significant strand of opinion among opponents and supporters alike. A reluctance to press differences to extremes, which one might categorize as characteristically Anglican, was widespread.

Such feelings may underlie the view often volunteered on both

sides that attempts to force the issue by aggressive demonstrations are offensive and counter-productive. Grassroots church-goers evidently feel a sturdy disregard for the views of their parish priest, and have scant sympathy for the plight of clergymen whose conscience might lead them to resign.

Mrs Walford says: "I don't think they should be compensated. A lot of things in the world are changing. Haven't we got to live with each other and fit in?"

A number of supporters say that they had come to their present view quite recently. "Today I feel quite strongly about it, but five years ago, I didn't think about it — nobody did. It was just one of those accepted things," Mrs Hardaker says. "I think that's one of the reasons why it's proving so difficult. It has all happened so fast."

Signs such as this of changing opinions may be indications of a process which is still continuing. Alternatively, the differences in practice and approach between supporters and opponents which the survey identifies may indicate that a core of more resistant opposition has now defined itself.

George Hill

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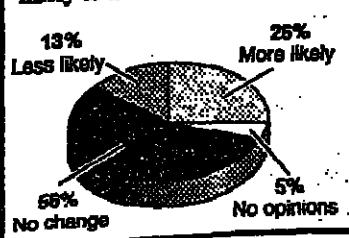
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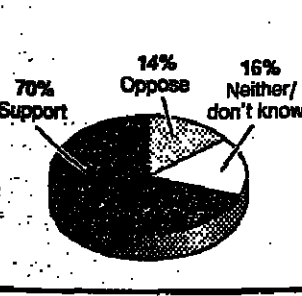
FOR BETTER OR WORSE

Q If there were women priests in the Church of England, do you think that would make people who do not currently go to church more or less likely to attend?



THE ROAD TO ROME

Q Do you support or oppose the Church of England developing closer links with the Roman Catholic Church?



Philip Howard's New Words for Old will appear next week

TIMES DIARY

DAVID WALKER

It has been difficult over the past few days to find anyone with a hard word for Alan John Hardcastle, the Peat Marwick partner who's just been appointed to the £100,000 a year job as head of the Government Accounting Service. While good for Hardcastle, that fact isn't necessarily good news for Whitehall. What everyone says government accounting needs now is a tough guy, prepared to tell ministers and permanent secretaries some hard truths.

Hardcastle's job (knighthood comes free) pays a good £20,000 a year more than the most senior civil servant, Sir Robin Butler, not because of its responsibility but because accountants are hard to come by, and the Government couldn't get a private sector import for much less. Hardcastle — who's 55 — isn't going to have time to set the Thames on fire, even if he had the inclination. Yet the need for some high grade push on the accounting front is something readily acknowledged. The accountants who have got to the top as general administrators are few and far between: Peter Kemp, the man in charge of the Ibbis reviews is one of the few and he says openly the lack of accounting expertise shows, even in major reports like that of Sir Robin Ibbis himself. Keith Holt is another senior accountant, head of the profession in the Department of Trade and Industry who recently launched into what for a serving official was a heavy criticism of lack of accounting expertise in Whitehall. Too much auditing is done by unqualified people, he said firmly. One of the problems is that though the Government is willing to pay Hardcastle a lot, the accountants under his command are paid on official scales, which is not enough.

The man who took the Government's Computer Aided Design Centre to privatization and went on to run its National Engineering Laboratory until it, too, became a candidate for sale by the Department of Trade and Industry has been picked as the next controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

But adding two and two do not necessarily make four and privatization for the government book publishers and envelope suppliers. For one thing the new man, Dr Paul Freeman, has for the past few years been in charge of the Central Computers and Telecommunications Agency and so far there have been no signs of its being sold off. For another, the head of HMSO is given an ancient scroll saying he is also Queen's Printer, and Her Majesty indicated when it came to the royal parks and palaces the idea of privatization did not greatly appeal.

Freeman is a scientist turned civil servant whose promotion to the top job in HMSO — graded a deputy secretary post — will make him one of the most senior technologists in a non-specialist job in Whitehall.

He says marketing is the key issue for HMSO, a message which the printers and publishers in Norwich have taken to heart in recent years, as they rapidly began modernizing both equipment and attitudes. Whitehall no longer has to use HMSO for books and paper clips if departments can find a competitive commercial supplier, but few have. Much credit is due to the man Freeman replaces as controller, John Dole. Privatization has already been looked at but, as the agency arrangement goes ahead, it is supposed to be off the agenda "for the time being".

There's recently been quite a haemorrhage of talent from the unions of the boys and girls who would, in other circumstances, have grown up into the Norman Willises and Clive Jenkines of the early 21st century. What's going isn't just that they are going, but that they are going to the very places doing the unions down. Hard on the heels of Adam Sharples of Nupe, a surprise recruit to Her Majesty's Treasury, Alan Cave, a bright back room boy from the General & Municipal, is off to management consultants Coopers and Lybrand. There, if he isn't going to advise unions how best to survive in a harsh age, he'll be telling firms how to reorganize their personnel departments for the days when collective bargaining is over.

BARRY FANTONI



It's shocking. My daughter's boy will only be 14 when she goes back

If Govan turns out to be more than a freak and the SNP takes off again, will the party re-establish its intellectual links with the University of Edinburgh? A decade ago you could barely move in the staff club without bumping into a potential Nat candidate or pamphleteer. Now it's different. Edinburgh's been working hard recently at establishing its international, rather than national, credentials, and with a big push on fund-raising from corporate donors it might not want too intimate an association with a socialist, Sillars-style SNP.

And yet the diaspora that's taken place from Edinburgh since the Seventies could work to the Nat's advantage, not least in fund raising. Take Iain Mearns who used to work at the university's development campaign, and before that as an official for the SNP itself. He's now leading Imperial College into the brave new world of corporate sponsorship and alumni donations, making an active play for Imperial's technologists who have made good in the US. A good few of them are Scots. Might he be tempted to turn over his mailing lists to let Margo Macdonald make some beguiling transatlantic phone calls?

Mary Dejevsky looks at growing Soviet difficulties in Afghanistan

Withdrawal symptoms

Less than two months ago the Afghan prime minister made an extended visit to Moscow, leading to speculation that he was being groomed to succeed Najibullah. Then, the Soviet ambassador in Kabul was replaced by Yuli Vorontsov, formerly a First Deputy Foreign Minister and chief Soviet arms negotiator at Geneva.

Two weeks ago, Moscow delivered new long-range missiles to Kabul. At the same time, it suspended its troop withdrawal while taking pains to stress that the original deadline would be met. Yesterday, a Soviet television reporter repeated what a foreign affairs commentator had suggested earlier in the summer, that the Najibullah government was unrepresentative and did not enjoy public confidence.

This sequence of events suggests at best uncertainty, at worst

high-level conflict about how to proceed as the withdrawal date nears. There is evidence to suggest, however, that the lack of cohesion about how to proceed in Afghanistan may mask a wider disagreement about foreign policy which sees Mr Gorbachev at odds with some sections of his Foreign Ministry — though not with the Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze.

One sign of such a conflict would be the dispatch of Yuli Vorontsov to Kabul as ambassador. This must surely be one of the most thankless postings in the Kremlin's diplomatic list. The glamour of the Kabul cocktail circuit and the plenitude of its bazaar can hardly compensate for the army that is in retreat, the friendly government which might not be so friendly — or even exist — in the space of weeks or months, and the regular missile attacks. Vorontsov's

negotiating skills will doubtless be indispensable in his new post, especially if he finds himself convening meetings between the present government and leaders of the mujahidin groups which might in time aspire to share power. But the doubt nagging would you like to be Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan in the latter half of 1988? And the obvious conclusion — that a senior Foreign Ministry official is being eased out of office and dispatched to an important, but singularly difficult and unpopular post — need not be rejected too readily.

The past three years, since the arrival of Shevardnadze at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, have not been easy for ministry staff who had, through the 30 years of Andrei Gromyko's tenure, built up their own system of patronage. The sudden arrival of Shevardnadze, an outsider, pro-

vided the world with a smiling contrast to his predecessor, but the story inside the ministry may be different.

Recent personnel changes in the upper reaches of the ministry and related areas have combined with contradictory statements from individual Politburo members to suggest that a tussle for the direction of Soviet foreign policy is in progress.

One particularly confusing personnel change was the "retirement" of Anatoly Dobrynin from the Central Committee Secretariat at the extraordinary plenary of the Central Committee in September. It was possible at the time to connect his removal with the enforced retirement of Gromyko, whose long-serving ambassador he had been in Washington. But Dobrynin's re-emergence as an aide to Gorbachev during Chancellor Kohl's visit to Moscow

suggests that his removal may have been against Gorbachev's wishes.

Vorontsov — whose career, like Dobrynin's, survived the transition from Brezhnev to Gorbachev unscathed — may have been another victim of disagreement between the leadership and the Foreign Ministry.

Over the summer, the main lines of the dispute were suggested by sharp differences in pronouncements on foreign policy made by Yegor Ligachov on the one hand, and Shevardnadze and Aleksandr Yakovlev, now head of the Central Committee's foreign affairs commission, on the other. While Ligachov argued for the retention of ideological considerations as a guiding principle of foreign relations, Shevardnadze and Yakovlev, like Gorbachev, have advocated greater flexibility, including a departure from dogmatism in foreign policy.

If the divisions over foreign policy run as deep as these statements indicate, it is no wonder that policy towards Afghanistan is in difficulty. The future of the Kabul government represents a test case of exactly this nature.

Hans Binnendijk

Time to patch up Nato

When President-elect, George Bush, meets Mrs Thatcher this week he will turn his attention across the Atlantic. He will see an alliance economically strong, militarily capable, but politically confused. Without the new administration's thoughtful attention, allied differences of opinion could develop into deep divisions.

Two developments underlie the sense of unease in Nato. First, Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev has frayed the allied security consensus with his barrage of diplomatic offensives. Second, confidence in one of Nato's basic tenets, the military doctrine of flexible response, has begun to erode.

Bush has already taken an important first step by calling for an early Nato summit to review current strategies. Many hope such a summit could set in motion a process similar to the 1967 effort by Belgian Defence Minister, Pierre Harmel, who established a formula that provided Nato coherence for two decades. Like the original Harmel Report, this new effort would need to address both the nature of the Soviet challenge and the credibility of Nato doctrine.

Gorbachev's charm offensive has profoundly affected much of Western Europe. In West Germany, for example, public opinion polls show that he is held in much higher regard than either Ronald Reagan or Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

And yet the charm offensive may be ephemeral, threatened by the possible failure of perestroika. The Soviet nationalities problem, or disruptions in Eastern Europe. It may also prove to be a calculated effort to divide the allied States in its European allies. A close comparison shows that Soviet rhetoric far exceeds Soviet deeds. No significant changes have taken place thus far which improve the conventional military balance in Europe or reduce the military nature of the Soviet threat.

The new American president-elect seems to understand the Western responses to Gorbachev so far have been ragged and insufficient to meet European political needs. He is also

aware that the West needs to be alert to opportunities created by Soviet "new thinking" by developing a co-ordinated Western position which is realistic about the nature of Gorbachev's initiatives without missing potential opportunities to reduce East-West tensions.

Getting the response to Gorbachev right, however, will not be enough. The second element in any new Nato strategic consensus must be to repair the tattered Nato doctrine of flexible response. That doctrine rests on the triad of the extension of the strategic US deterrent to Europe; the maintenance of modern battlefield nuclear weapons in Europe; and the development of a robust conventional deterrent.

In recent years the geographic cleavage inherent in flexible responses has widened. The US has stressed strategies that appear to confine war to Europe and Europeans have stressed the importance of coupling transatlantic security interests through the threat of rapid escalation. In the process, all three elements of the Nato triad have come under strain.

During the past five years, US strategic policies have tended to shift their emphasis from enhancing nuclear deterrence to eliminating nuclear weapons. For the Europeans, the Reykjavik Summit proposals, the double zero agreement on INF weapons, and the population defence rationale for the Strategic Defence Initiative all contribute to the perception that Americans want to make nuclear weapons unusable. But since flexible response rests firmly on retaining the option to use nuclear weapons first if Nato is attacked, this perception has eroded European confidence in America's extended deterrence.

If the Bush administration wishes to restore this confidence it will have to change European perceptions about the goals of US strategic initiatives. Both START and SDI, for example, must enhance crisis stability and deterrence to gain European support. Simply restating US determination to extend nuclear deterrence would be another empty promise. So would an early



decision to earmark a number of sea-launched cruise missiles for Nato use.

Modernizing the second element of the Nato triad, the battlefield nuclear weapons, may be the most difficult European security challenge facing the Bush administration. Nato planners have now conceptualized a new smaller nuclear force. It would include an airborne stand-off missile similar to the US SRAM II, a 450 kilometre range ground-launched ballistic missile to replace the Lance, and continued modernization of nuclear artillery shells.

The West German public seems relatively content with the first and third aspects of this modernization programme, but there is broad opposition to new generation of ground-based missiles. Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher insists that any Lance modernization decision be coupled with a Nato pledge to negotiate with the

Soviets on these short-range missiles to achieve equal ceilings at lower levels. Much of the rest of Nato remains concerned, however, that the Soviets will exploit their numerical superiority in this category of weapons and propose a so-called third zero. That could be difficult for Nato to resist while at the same time detrimental to flexible response.

The Bush Administration should not agree to negotiate with the Soviets on short-range nuclear weapons unless Nato heads of state can agree in public on the specific requirement for minimal deterrence. Without this clearly defined bottom line, negotiations would be a trap that could lead to a denuclearized Nato. In the absence of such an agreement, it would be safest to begin a life extension programme for the existing Lance. If the Germans continue to insist on negotiations as the price for modernization, then developing

a clear definition of minimal nuclear deterrence in Europe should be an important aspect of the strategy review.

Re-emergence of the burden-sharing debate puts intense pressure on the third element of the Nato triad, conventional forces. With no tax increase, budget reductions in the United States will trim more than \$300 billion from planned defence spending levels during the next five years. That squeeze will inevitably raise the spectre of US troop reductions from Europe.

During his campaign Bush indicated that conventional force problems will be tackled in at least two ways. First, he promised to give the highest priority to conventional arms control, with reducing Soviet preponderance in tanks, artillery, and armoured vehicles the main goal. If these negotiations succeed, they would help to stabilize the conventional military balance in Europe. But the

talks may take years to complete and their existence is unlikely to diminish pressure in Congress for troop cuts.

Second, Bush advisers have indicated interest in the so-called competitive strategies doctrine. This stresses high-tech approaches to conventional defence such as the use of accurate stand-off weapons, mobile rocket launchers, stealth technology, penetrating warheads to neutralize command bunkers, and sophisticated target acquisition radar systems. While the doctrine makes full use of Western comparative advantages, Europeans may resist it for favouring US industry, for shifting resources away from efforts to sustain capabilities of existing forces, and for having an offensive bias.

It is not difficult to see why the British Government is concerned that the Harmel II policy review process could spin out of control. Yet the transatlantic consensus cannot be allowed to continue to unravel. So it is important to set up the procedure for review very carefully. The idea of a "wise men's group" used by Harmel in 1967 is attractive, because it would allow creativity while unworkable recommendations could be officially disavowed by governments.

Lord Carrington remains a favourite choice to head such a group. He has two important qualifications. He is a respected former Nato Secretary-General who understands the military and political issues. He is also sceptical about a Harmel II process, and would approach it with due caution.

There are difficult times ahead for Nato, in responding to Gorbachev and in reviewing Nato doctrine. The Bush administration will have the advantage of taking a fresh look at the problem. The comprehensive approach that Bush seems to have in mind will hopefully allow Nato to rebuild its consensus on security policy.

The author, former Deputy Staff Director of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is Director of Studies at the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Commentary • WOODROW WYATT

Poverty: a growth industry

Self-appointed groups beaver away trying to prove that the poor are rising in number and getting poorer. Their strange conclusions, backed by dubious statistics, are treated as authoritative in many parts of the media: most prominently so by the BBC.

In the summer the Low Pay Unit sought to demonstrate that in 1985 2.45 million people were living below the poverty line, a rise of 16 per cent since 1979. The poverty line for the Low Pay Unit was the supplementary benefit level. By the same analogy the Low Pay Unit claimed that because 9.38 million people, including the first figure, were on or below the supplementary benefit level 17 per cent of the population are in poverty: a rise of 55 per cent since 1979.

Continuing with this curious line of thought the Low Pay Unit went on to say that altogether 15.42 million people (29 per cent of the population) were living in poverty or on its margins because they had an income no more than 40 per cent above supplementary benefit level: an alleged rise in poverty of 33 per cent since 1979. By this reckoning every time the government increases benefits for the poorer the number of poor also increases. The government is thus caught in an artificial poverty trap. Relieving poverty is equated with creating it.

Never mind that pensioners' incomes, after allowing for inflation, have risen by 25 per cent since 1970. The fact that hard-up pensioners, the disabled and single parents under the new income support scheme (replac-

ing the old supplementary benefits) will now get still more, will soon be turned by the poverty groups into proving that the number of poor has further increased. The motive force for this absurd approach to poverty is the stimulation of envy of the better off and a desire for all to have approximately the same income, and to draw the same benefits. Hence the emphasis on the widening gap between the better off and the less well off.

Between 1974 and 1979 the real take-home pay of a married one-earner couple with two children rose by only 0.6 per cent if they were on average earnings and by only 4.2 per cent if they were on half average earnings. Between 1978-79 and 1988-89 the real take home pay of the same couple went up by 27.5 per cent on average earnings and 21.5 per cent on half average earnings. What does it matter if some were getting more prosperous than others so long as all were getting more prosperous? That must be preferable to rigid egalitarianism.

Last week the Chancellor of the Exchequer was in trouble for raising the question that when extra money is available to pay additional benefits the extra should be channelled towards those who need it most. The emotive banner of "means tests" was raised high. There were reminders of the pre-war days when the unemployed did not get their dole until the bailiffs had removed and sold their furniture. This is childish rubbish.

Income tax is means tested. Seventy five per cent of all prescriptions are free but only to those who can establish they cannot afford the charges. A family with two teenage children with an income of less than £9,300 can get the new family credit but they must demonstrate that their income is below that. Income support is related to the income of the recipients.

The maintenance of students from families with less than £9,900 a year is free if the authorities are satisfied that the family income does not exceed that figure. Even above that payments are made on a sliding scale until the point where the would-be recipient has a substantial income.

The government pumps money by the extra £2,000 million plus into the NHS. Still there are howls that it is not enough. There are louder howls when the government adds £134 million to that total by eliminating free eye and dental checks. But everyone knew from the start that the National Health Service could never be absolutely free or the nation would sink under the weight of it. Though, through dislike of Hugh Gaitskell, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nye Bevan, architect of the NHS, resigned from the Labour Cabinet in 1951 when charges on teeth and spectacles were introduced by Labour, he himself had in 1949 prepared a Bill to introduce prescription charges which was later abandoned for administrative reasons.

Those who make it their business to pretend that the

numbers in poverty are rising are also the fiercest adherents of the notion that benefits from pensions and the National Health Service should be the same for all, notwithstanding the obvious truth that they would then therefore be lower than they could be for those most in need. They also ignore their own clamour against tax cuts for the better off by trying to prevent the 60 per cent best off, the main beneficiaries of the tax cuts, pay the trivial new NHS charges.

What do those who champion the poverty-stricken mean by poverty? Average male earnings in all industries in April 1988 were £240.60. We are asked to assume that anyone with less than that is beginning to approach poverty and reaches it at half average wages. Some practitioners of this art claim that you are poor if you know someone who eats smoked salmon at lunch and you are unable to.

The unemployed of this country have far better clothing and housing, more colour television sets, more baths and hot water, far more cars and better food than the average employed person in Russia or the Saxon King who thrived in conditions which today would be described as abject poverty. He would have thought the life of the unemployed in Britain today was unimaginable luxury.

Nigel Lawson is on the right lines. Additions to present benefits and entitlements should not be showered indiscriminately; they should go where real help is needed. Anything to the contrary is state philanthropy gone mad.

NOV 15 ON THIS DAY 1928

Sir Philip Sassoon (1888-1939), politician and connoisseur, was a rich man of great social gifts. Twice Under-Secretary of State for Air, he did much to forward the cause of aviation, regularly covering thousands of miles by air. His annual speech on the introduction of the air estimates was invariably delivered without a single written note.

17,000 MILES BY AIR SIR PHILIP SASSOON'S TOUR

Sir Philip Sassoon, Under-Secretary for Air, who returned on Tuesday night from a 17,000-mile flying tour of Royal Air Force stations in the East, described his journey yesterday at the Air Ministry, and spoke of the ease and speed of air travel. He left Plymouth on September 29 in a Blackburn Iris flying-boat, in which he flew to Egypt, where he transferred to military machines. He rejoined the flying-boat in the Persian Gulf, and left it again at Karachi, whence he found the North-West Frontier by air. He once more flew in the Iris on the way back, was taken in land machines to air units in Iraq, and then, returning to Egypt, came back to England by flying boat, via the North Coast of Africa and Malta. Outwards the route was practically that of the England-India air mail service which is to start next April.

SIR PHILIP SASSOON said that he thought travel by flying-boat was delightful. There was very little vibration and an extremely good speed could be kept up. He had been navigated through very varied kinds of

weather, and at the start from Plymouth the pilots flew alternately 500 ft off the water owing to bad clouds and then above them until they reached the French coast. On the return journey they passed Mount Etna in eruption, and he was surprised to see that there was still an enormous snow cap to the volcano although the lava was destroying the villages round the mountain.

The whole trip had been a very useful and valuable test of the capabilities of the flying-boat, and he was convinced that he could not have covered the same distances by any other means of transport with so little fatigue. He wasted no time, and some days flew 900 miles, but in spite of the short time available he had been able to see all that he had planned without scrambling any section, even though there had been some delay owing to engine trouble at Jask. This area, Sir Philip Sassoon remarked, seemed to be fatal to aircraft, for many airmen had fallen in the Persian Gulf. Jask itself had a number of the wrecks of abandoned seaplanes, and Sir Samuel Hoare was held up on his trip to India in that area by a sandstorm.

Within three weeks and two days of leaving Plymouth he had visited all the Royal Air Force units in Egypt and the Sudan, Mesopotamia, and India, with the exception of Mosul and Malta, which he visited on the return journey. He had been a military rather than a civil tour, and he was very pleased to find the Royal Air Force in these hot climates was extraordinarily fit. As an illustration of the speed at which distances were covered, Sir Philip Sassoon said that, on the outward journey from Naples to Athens he was able to visit the museums at Naples before leaving and visit the museums at Athens before they closed on the same day.



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HONESTY ON HILLSBOROUGH

The Anglo-Irish Agreement passes its third anniversary today. It has disappointed some of the most grandiloquent hopes expressed at the time of its signing. It has not rapidly dissolved communal tensions going back hundreds of years nor lessened the casualty figures from the related terrorism. It has not stimulated new political institutions in the province.

The honest supporters of the Hillsborough Accord — and, more important, its honest opponents — should recognise that no such achievements were likely to be seen so soon. The formal review, currently being carried out by the signatory governments, must recognise that.

It was always a treaty between governments, never a historic understanding between peoples. Its most tangible benefits in enhanced north-south security co-operation can be measured only by a privileged few. The closer workings of the two government bureaucracies are equally invisible. Government ministers on both sides find defending the Agreement a problem: they can only assert, not illustrate.

The majority Unionist community is still anxious and passively opposed. It is divided between those who wish to secure their future by integrating completely with Britain, those who disagree but wish to remove the Agreement by other means, and a smaller number who see some possibility of amending the Agreement in the context of better relations between Unionism and government south of the border.

The minority Roman Catholic community continues broadly in support of the Agreement and the right of consultation in Northern Ireland affairs which it grants to the government of the Republic. But it is also unimpressed by the fact that for all the fuss, life has not much changed so far. Support for the IRA's political candidates has barely dipped.

As often in the history of Northern Ireland, the most interesting current debates are within, and not between, communities. The forward edge of the high-profile "integration" campaign is the attempt to persuade the mainland political parties to organize in the province. Last week, the National Union of Conservative Constituency Associations, acting on the advice of the party chairman and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, rejected an application for membership from an embryonic party in North Down.

This is a long way from the power which Unionists wielded in the day of the true alliance between Conservatism and Unionism. Since the struggle over Home Rule, there has been a gradual estrangement. Unionists grew comfortable with the relative autonomy (and political dominance) which distinguished Northern Ireland from every other part of the United Kingdom.

Over the past 20 years, British governments of both parties have administered shocks to the Unionist system which have aligned the governance of the province more closely with the practices of the mainland. But these incremental changes have stopped well short of altering the post-war assurance — unique in the United Kingdom — that the constitutional allegiance was the decision of the local majority.

The Government's general position against integration is right. That is not because it is an illogical policy or that a respectable theoretical case cannot be made for it. "Integration" is wrong because it would increase violence on the way to a future that would be no more certain than under present policy.

For it to be wise to turn back from Hillsborough, to abandon the gains so far made, however small, more assurance than that must be required. In our judgement, to turn back from Hillsborough would be at the greater risk of creating a dangerous strategic instability throughout the island of Ireland.

The Conservative Party is, however, in danger of making a fool of itself on a smaller question. There is no sense or justice in resisting determined calls for parties to organize locally if the demand is as strong as it obviously is.

The precise grounds on which the National Union refused the North Down application are unclear, but a party can only operate with universal rules which are clear and seen to be fairly applied. Mr Tom King and the National Union chairman said last week that the applicants did not support the Government's policy in Northern Ireland. A number of sitting Conservative MPs would not meet that test.

Ulster Unionists are prone to imply that the mere admission of these dissenting party members would precipitate a revolution in government policy at the next election if not before. In reality, Unionist votes would be split and more nationalist MPs elected. More Unionists would come face to face with the truth of how far away, culturally as well as politically, they are from contemporary Conservatism. In other words, little would change.

Admitting Unionists would open the possibility that the party could be influenced by integrationist arguments. The fact that these arguments are wrong-headed does not mean that they should not be aired. The Anglo-Irish Agreement will not increase in effectiveness if it cannot persuade the majority in Northern Ireland of its usefulness. It is an integral part of a British government policy which recognises that the political allegiances of the people of Northern Ireland are divided in a way not found anywhere else in the United Kingdom.

CLOSER WESTERN UNION

The Western European Union (WEU) reached a turning point in its history yesterday by admitting Spain and Portugal as members. But which way it is turning and how far are questions to which no one has a clear answer.

The WEU was revitalized four years ago, largely at the instigation of France, to concentrate European minds on defence. It provided a convenient forum, complete with a ready-made secretariat, which lay outside both the European Community and Nato.

Until now, however, it has focused on central Europe. This was indeed one of its virtues, as seen through the eyes of the seven member governments. While they were more than capable of disagreements among themselves, their meetings had a coherence which even Nato, despite its underlying common purpose, often lacked.

By opening its doors to Spain and Portugal, it has moved one step further away from the promise of easy consensus. For this reason, the WEU will not have not taken this step without conquering some serious misgivings. The adherence of Portugal created no problems in itself because Portugal was a long-standing member of Nato, belonging to the military command structure. But the Portuguese wanted to join simply because Madrid had applied to do so — and Madrid's application raised a set of awkward questions.

These questions have now largely been answered. The opposition of Spain's socialist government to stationing nuclear weapons on its soil was dealt with through a compromise in September which allowed visiting US warships to enter Spanish ports without being challenged. More recently, Spain's reluctance to join the Nato command structure has been bypassed through an allied arrangement which gives its forces a special role of their own in the Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic. Meanwhile Spain itself will become a rear staging area for Allied troops in wartime.

There are still difficulties. While the United States has reached a new agreement with Madrid over its Spanish bases, under which it has moved out of the airbase at Torrejon, the

Pentagon is less than happy with it. Meanwhile the dispute with Britain over Gibraltar could also cause complications.

But Señor Felipe Gonzalez's determination to join the WEU, notwithstanding his country's membership of Nato and the EEC, itself reflects the WEU's success in re-establishing itself as a major institution. He has gone far enough towards meeting Allied reservations to override objections to Madrid's membership. The return of Spain to the front rank of European powers, in security as well as economic terms, is something to be welcomed not regretted.

This still leaves the WEU to decide where it is going. It is clearly no longer a cosy talking shop for a small group of like-minded powers in central Europe. It now has nine members, more than half the number in Nato — and Turkey has already indicated its interest.

There has long appeared to be a need for a stronger European pillar within Nato. But the pillar should not be allowed to topple the structure it supports. If the WEU turned itself into a club within a club, presenting the Americans with a *fait accompli*, it could do grave damage to transatlantic relations — which must remain a paramount European concern.

President-elect George Bush enters the White House next year against a background of renewed complaints about defence costs and Nato burden-sharing. The image persists in America of a complacent, tight-fisted Europe, content to let the US pay for everything. Threats to disband some of the American units on this side of the Atlantic may be allayed while the prospect of an East-West agreement on conventional force reductions remains. But they are very much there in the background.

On the one hand, the Americans need to be convinced that Europeans are serious about defence. On the other, any attempt by Europe to band together against the US could encourage resentment in Congress. The bigger the WEU grows, the more delicate the balancing act it will have to perform in Nato.

Trial by jury

From Dr Mark Powlson

Sir, Professor Zander (November 8) implies that the recent Crown Prosecution Service study of 3,000 crown court cases — which showed a 59 per cent conviction rate after peremptory challenge of jurors, against 51 per cent where no challenge was made — supports the case against changes in the selection of juries. This argument is only valid if the defence's tendency to challenge jurors is never influenced by the imagined strength or weakness of their client's case, which seems unlikely.

Nevertheless, to change the present system without clear evidence of benefit would seem

perverse; perhaps the legal profession should set up some (for-give-me) controlled trials? Cases in a few crown courts could be heard by two juries — one chosen under the present regulations, which would be used to give the trial verdict; the other, composed without peremptory challenge and with whatever other changes are envisaged, which would deliver a written verdict independently (perhaps directly to the Lord Chancellor's office).

These could then be compared and the effects on conviction rates assessed. Of course, the use of acquittal and conviction rates as a measure of true justice remains debatable, at best.

Yours sincerely,
MARK POWLSON,
46 Bedford Square, WCL
November 8.

From his Honour Alan King-Hamilton

Sir, It may be, as Professor Zander says, that Home Office statistics did not show an increase in acquittals after the 1974 reduction in the minimum age of jurors to 18, but in my experience at the Old Bailey there was a marked increase in such verdicts.

Being a juror is a serious and responsible matter and requires a measure of maturity based on some adult experience of life beyond school age. At 18, whether they go to university or into the Forces, or straight into jobs or sadly into unemployment, I do not think they are ready to exercise the degree of responsibility required.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN KING-HAMILTON,
Royal Air Force Club,
128 Piccadilly, W1.
November 9

Calling means tests to account

From Mrs Joyce Sears

Sir, Although the canard about the possibility of means-testing the State pension is being described as a dead duck, there may yet remain some prospect of its being minced over and later served up in the more acceptable form of pâté. So I offer some comments:

1. All pensions, whether State, occupational, or private, are paid for during the pensioner's working life. It follows that it is as unprincipled to withhold any part of the State pension as it would be to withhold any other part.

2. All pensions are included in the tax assessment and so are subject to the same means-tested levy as any other income.

3. Privately arranged pensions are not necessarily the preserve of the affluent. They may equally be the product of forethought and self-denial, and are certainly expressive of independence and initiative. Is it wise to discourage such thrift by any reduction of rights?

4. Home expenditure goes up on retirement, notably in the shape of extra heating and lighting which would once have been provided during working hours by the employer.

5. Though the mortgage may have been paid off, the pensioner frequently faces large bills for major maintenance and re-equipment. Elderly people cannot always do such work themselves to save on bills.

6. The administrative cost of supplementary benefits is high. It should be considered whether it would be more cost-effective to raise the level of the State pension to reduce the need for such supplements.

Yours faithfully,
JOYCE SEARS,
43 St Johns Road,
Cove, Farnborough, Hampshire.
November 11.

From Miss Alice Crosthwaite

Sir, In his Commentary today (November 11) Mr Kilroy-Silk writes that it does not carry conviction to turn the "whole issue (means-testing of persons receiving State benefits) into a condemnation of means-testing and to evoke the humiliation of the past". He might have added — the present. As a voluntary worker for victim support, in my experience means-testing is not only humiliating but also inadequate.

On page 2 of the same issue there is a report entitled, "Benefit staff 'failing to tell people of their rights'". Why cannot Department of Social Security staff be in-

structed to explain to claimants precisely what benefits they are entitled to?

I recently visited an old lady of 89, who has had her pension stolen on returning home from collecting it, and who has also had her wedding ring taken from her finger and all the money she had (about £5) stolen by an intruder who forced his way into her flat.

Her sole income is her pension, which is £35.98, plus a rent allowance of £46 a month (about £10.60 a week). She has to pay rent of £23.04 a week. She has, therefore, a balance of £23.54 for all needs, food, clothing, and even her water rate.

She contacted me some months after my initial visit because she could not understand why her rent assistance had been stopped some weeks before. She was unable to pay her rent because she had to buy food.

After endless telephoning, and being transferred from one department to another, I was able to discover that her rent assistance had been stopped because she should have applied for renewal, and had failed to do so. How can an old lady of 89 be expected to conform to bureaucratic rules which seem to her incomprehensible?

Means-testing is humiliating and the system fails to ensure the old and failing receive the basic income to which they are entitled. And how is any person expected to live on the amount calculated to meet the needs of this old lady?

Yours faithfully,
ALICE CROSTHWAITE,
36 St Gerards Close, SW4.
November 11.

From Sir Gilbert Longden

Sir, Why is it that it is left to your columnist, Robert Kilroy-Silk, once an ornament on the Labour benches, to expulsiate the Chancellor of what he is said to have said to the Sunday Press?

With clarity and logic Mr Kilroy-Silk repeats what many Conservatives have been (fruitlessly) saying ever since "One Nation" (1950) — that the welfare state is not a scatter-gun, but a rifle aimed at targets which are in genuine need.

This surely should have been the unashamed substance of the briefing (perhaps it was) and of the subsequent answers to questions in the House.

Yours sincerely,
GILBERT LONGDEN,
89 Cornwall Gardens, SW7.
November 11.

Foreign policy

From Professor Geoffrey Lee Williams

Sir, David Hart's proposal in his article (November 4) that the Prime Minister should create an independent Foreign Affairs Unit with a national security adviser at its head raises the question of Mrs Thatcher's particular role in foreign policy as well as the theory of Cabinet government.

Clearly the Prime Minister in this analysis emerges as a presidential figure backed by a separate foreign-policy expertise provided by her special national security adviser. This interesting suggestion implies that the Prime Minister has become indubitably so pre-eminant that the Cabinet has virtually ceased to be an "effective" part of the Government. She has joined the Monarchy and the Lords among the "dignified" elements in making the prime ministerial office above and apart from her Cabinet colleagues.

Mr Hart sensibly qualifies his support for this interpretation of the Constitution by suggesting that a Foreign Affairs Unit located in Downing Street would have no constitutional basis for conducting foreign policy. Quite so. However, it has long been the custom for the Prime Minister to be virtually supreme in determining the execution of foreign policy by reducing the Foreign Secretary to a subordinate role.

Mrs Thatcher's hegemony in this sphere of government is perhaps inevitable, given her chairmanship of the Defence and Overseas Policy Committee, but in exercising her foreign-policy role the Prime Minister would be most unwise to disregard the specialized knowledge and skills

of the FCO. Many past prime ministers have made this mistake, including Churchill, Eden, and Home and, more recently, Heath and Wilson.

Surely it would be wise to recall the consequences of Lloyd George's eclipse of the Foreign Office in the years 1919-22 which brought Britain to the verge of war with Turkey at Chanak. It cannot be denied that Lloyd George's methods have created unfortunate precedents (Neville Chamberlain preferred to find his advisers of foreign policy outside the Foreign Office).

Perhaps the nation is fortunate that the Foreign Office has escaped Mrs Thatcher's ardour for reform, if by reform we were to see this great department reduced to a mere technical apparatus. There may be some truth in the argument that the Prime Minister needs independent advice on foreign policy, but she must also rely on the advice of her Foreign Secretary who, in turn, has formed his opinions on the basis of information and advice provided by his officials.

Mr Hart's case for the appointment of a national security adviser is perhaps a strong one, but it is patently unfair to assert that the Foreign Office is principally concerned with the "problems of a nation in decline". Its support for the EMS (European monetary system) for example indicated confidence in the future which is a view shared by the Chancellor and probably half of the Cabinet.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS,
University of Surrey,
Department of Linguistic
and International Studies,
Guildford, Surrey.
November 6.

Solicitors in court

From Mr Louis F. Brody

Sir, Reports have recently appeared in *The Times* about solicitors sending unqualified representatives to crown court to sit behind junior counsel. Any solicitor with a busy criminal practice has long ago given up the idea of attending crown court as un-economic. In fact it is scarcely profitable to send a legal executive or even an articled clerk on the

present scales of legal-aid remuneration.

In straightforward pleas etc., the attendance of anyone besides the barrister is usually superfluous. In my view the solicitor who has conducted the case at the magistrates' court and briefed counsel should have an unfettered discretion as to whether he needs to send someone to the crown court.

One way of cutting down legal-aid costs would be to leave the question of representation to the discretion of the solicitor and apply the resultant savings to fair and proper increases in the general legal-aid rates of pay.

When people consult their doctor and are referred to a specialist or for an operation, they hardly expect to see someone from the surgery at the consulting rooms or on the operating theatre, nor would they welcome the idea of their local doctor being unavailable for appointments or house calls because he or she is operating at the local hospital.

Yours faithfully,
LOUIS F. BRODY,
Brody & Co., Solicitors,
South Parade Chambers,
Drake Street,
Rockdale, Lancashire.
November 3

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Historical background in education

From the Headmaster of St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh

Sir, I am probably not the only schoolteacher to have read with interest and sympathy but little surprise the letter (November 9) from Mrs Dorothy Harrison, of Lewes Technical College, deploring her literature students' lack of historical background education.

There seems to be a strong movement away from the teaching of sequential history, as from the teaching of Bible-stories scripture, of towns-countries-and-rivers geography, and of English grammar, punctuation, and syntax. The reasons are laudable: such teaching is seen as boring, irrelevant, old hat, and frequently tendentious in a direction of which current educational gurus disapprove. Hence the emphasis on in-depth relevant studies, on ethics rather than scripture, on free expression.

Unfortunately, most of those who advocate these modern educational ideals were themselves educated in the wider traditional mode and appear now to take its knowledge for granted. Thus it makes ample sense to a person who has himself had to grind through English history from 1066 (or perhaps 43 BC) to the 1950s to decry much of it as irrelevant and to try to spare the current generation of pupils the slog.

But then, by the end of school they have heard of the Wars of the Roses or of Roman history and are disadvantaged in reading Shakespeare's histories; or of the Napoleonic Wars, which disadvantages them with *Vanity Fair* and *The Trumpet Major*; or of the British Empire, which comprehensively disadvantages them from Conrad through E. M. Forster (and the more so if they've never heard of many of the places mentioned in such literature).

By the same token, they are disadvantaged towards vast areas of literature, visual art, and music if they have no working knowledge of the Bible.

I doubt if there is an obvious answer, reluctant pupils can hardly be taught what will bore them, at least after the age of 16; and so they will have great lacunae in their education. Perhaps the answer lies with primary and preparatory schools.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. S. ALLISON, Headmaster,
St Mary's Music School,
Old Coates House,
Manor Place, Edinburgh 3.

From Mr Michael R. G. Spiller
Sir, Since my own university has recently scored a British first by

beginning the undergraduate teaching of cultural history, I am naturally in favour of Professor Pick's view (November 8) that it should be more widely taught. However, it would be one of the tasks of such teaching to examine critically the very assumptions he makes in such phrases as "those long periods when large numbers of people seem to have chosen the best".

Culture is a kind of narrative that people construct about themselves out of all sorts of materials, from buildings to books, football to frescoes, for purposes of reassurance, self-definition, and self-advertisement. As history itself is one of those materials, culture is not a story one can ever get outside, though by using terms like "avant-garde rubbish" and "our cultural history" (my italics) one can try to appropriate it for one's own voice and interests.

Being a social discourse about social desires, culture is intensely relative, and the history of it, if well taught, will not lend authority to any one system of values, whether those of "economic development" or of a populace "choosing the best". It will, however, enable us to understand how we form our values and show how these formations help create our identities.

This may not be the help Professor Pick wants, but it is the direction that modern cultural history is taking. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL R. G. SPILLER,
Department of English,
Taylor Building,
King's College, Old Aberdeen
November 9.

Back to year dot

From Mr C. J. Cornwall

Sir, Professor Piggott's attribution (November 8) of the first use of the abbreviation BC to the 19th century postdates the event by at least a few years.

Lempriere prefixed to the second edition of his *Classical Dictionary*, published in 1792, a chronological table in which the dates are shown as BC or AD. That he was pioneering may be deduced from his footnote, which both explains the abbreviations and labours the obvious, namely that the Julian year, the era from the foundation of Rome or the Olympiads, "will easily be discovered by the application of the rules of subtraction or addition".

Yours faithfully,
C. J. CORNWALL,
5 Crossland Road,
Redhill, Surrey

Prince and architects

From Dr Crawford Knox

Sir, In his letter (November 7) Lord Broughshane, speaking of the New Scotland Yard building, says that his property company had a duty to its shareholders to put on the site the maximum amount of floorspace that the law would allow; and he blames this duty — and the planning authorities — for precluding any more sensitive treatment of the site.

Presumably, if the planning authorities had relaxed their requirements that same duty would have required the scope so created to be filled with yet more floorspace, and any imaginative treatment of the site would have

remained no more attainable.

Presumably also, duty to shareholders demanded that the building had to be the cheapest structure that the law would permit.

Is this really so in law, or morally? Are companies and their shareholders really precluded from exercising reasonable responsibilities as citizens of our towns and cities? Were the Victorians, with their often lavish buildings, not similarly bound? Or is Lord Broughshane merely passing the buck? I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
CRAWFORD KNOX,
Burrow Wood, East Hill,
Ottery St Mary, Devon.
November 7.

Nuclear fusion

From Dr David Lowry

Sir, Professor Haines, of Imperial College (November 9), is perhaps misleading in saying that one of the benefits of nuclear fusion is that it will not lead to proliferation through plutonium production, which would make fusion more attractive than the fast reactor.

Although plutonium is not produced as a by-product of burning deuterium fuel in fusion reactors, plutonium and other materials used in nuclear bombs, such as tritium, can be created using fusion reactors.

This may be done by placing uranium or lithium in the breeder blanket that, as with fast reactors, can be placed around the reactor core and be bombarded with the neutron flux. Yours sincerely,
DAVID LOWRY,
The Open University,
Faculty of Technology,
Walton Hall,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.
November 9.

Short shift

From Mr Derek Pearson

Sir, We not only live in a "heightist" society ("What price walking tall?" Health Section, November 10); we also evidently live in one of ugly neologisms, among which I now offer "shortism".

Shorter people such as my wife and myself pay less for our clothes, require less food and drink to sustain our bulk, and can enjoy small, light, and cheap furniture and cars more than those afflicted with greater stature. Yet I have never noticed that we are paid less, indeed we insist on equal pay for allegedly equal work.

Then there is "brainism", those with more of the stuff are often rewarded more highly than those with less.

Can we not compound all the implications and declare ourselves an "unfairist" society? Yours sincerely,
DEREK PEARSON,
Langata, Little London Road,
Horam,
Hearfield, East Sussex.
November 10

Waste disposal

From Miss J. M. Pick

Sir, Mr Hindley's suggestion (November 10) of concreting nuclear waste and burying it in the world's deserts, for want of anywhere else safe to deposit it, adds yet another twist to the spiral of lunacy that sets in in the absence of a clear idea of energy supply and energy demand.

What desert countries need is not complete sterilisation of their land for thousands of years to come, but the formula for correcting climatic imbalances so that rain may fall with sufficient regularity to allow plants to thrive.

The only really safe and economical way to deal with nuclear waste — and with much of the chemical waste which Mr Hindley would also like to offload on the deserts — is not to create it in the first place. Yours faithfully,
J. M. PICK,
23 Maybourne Grange,
Turnpike Link,
Croydon, Surrey.
November 10.

Equal opportunities

From Mrs Thelma Beale

Sir, While having my lunch today, I was entertained by a jay enjoying the peanuts I'd put out for the tit. In the summer we had a blackbird which fished for tadpoles, and last winter a heron consumed all the fat I'd put out for the starlings. Yours faithfully,
THELMA BEALE,
16 Woodside Avenue,
Hersham,
Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.
November 7.

Sun trap

From Mr A. S. Graham

Sir, Your "Gardening Correspondent" (Sport and Leisure, November 5) suggests ripening green tomatoes by wrapping them in pages of *The Times*.

Dare I suggest that they might ripen more quickly in *The Sun*? Yours faithfully,
A. S. GRAHAM,
Hunley, Titchhurst,
Wadhurst, East Sussex.
November 7

THE ARTS 1

TELEVISION

A dirty business

The relationship between muck and brass is proverbial, and last night's *Panorama* (BBC1) demonstrated how close it remains. Waste disposal is a highly profitable business, in which the interests of the environment and local communities come second to the making of money. In spite of the Prime Minister's pledges on the environment, its system of checks and balances is woefully inadequate.

The most disturbing revelations here concerned the water authorities, whose role will change in a profit-making direction following privatization. Their regulatory role will be taken over by a National Rivers Authority, whose role is uncertain. Will it continue the practice, spelled out here in detail and tacitly approved by Nicholas Ridley, of not prosecuting those who dump waste in rivers, but rather doing deals to ensure large contributions from these businesses towards the creation of new sewage plants?

Other problems nearer home, indeed very near a lot of homes, concern the landfill dumping of waste, which has an ugly tendency to explode years after those who dumped it have abdicated their responsibility. Legislation which gives the disposers of such waste a long-term duty has been stuck in the pipeline for some time, but it seems that the number of staff assigned to monitor the dangers of such sites has now been cut.

Environmental pollution was the subject of a royal commission in 1985, and for some seven years the government has been announcing its intention of dealing with the problems. But Nicholas Ridley, in an interview which could barely conceal his impatience, said he was unable to give any guarantees as to when a bill to deal with the problems would come before Parliament. Perhaps this is because of the evident difficulty in marrying the Tory philosophy of the freedom to make money with Mrs Thatcher's new-found commitment to the environment.

But there is perhaps one advantage here which *Panorama* did not fully bring out. If such a bill had been introduced five years ago, it could have been a relatively modest and uncontroversial affair, and need not have damaged the interests of the waste industry. Now, however, the issue has become a hot potato, and as the Prime Minister has declared her party not merely friends of the earth but "guardians and trustees for generations to come", any "green" bill will be greeted with unprecedented public scrutiny.

William Holmes

John Russell Taylor asks why Britain is missing out on some of the most important current touring fine art exhibitions

Let's do the show right here!

It is not merely chauvinistic to be disturbed by the increasing number of big internationally touring shows which Britain misses out on completely. Even the most lavishly illustrated catalogue is no substitute for seeing the originals. And there seems to be no lack of interest in Britain, given half a chance: last year's blockbuster shows devoted to Renoir and Chagall drew record attendances. All the same, the present gallery situation in America throws some gloomy sidelights on that in Britain. The giant shows devoted at this moment to Gauguin in Chicago and Degas in New York would a few years ago have been naturals for London. Now they simply shuttle back and forth between Paris and North America (Degas coming from Paris, Gauguin going to) without so much as a sideways glance across the Channel.

The loss to us is in both cases very considerable. It is doubtful whether there has ever been a show devoted to either artist so comprehensive in its coverage or so splendid in its presentation. The Gauguin show at the Art Institute in Chicago until December 11 does admittedly, in its North American version, lack one or two key works, such as the "Vision after the Service", which will be added in Paris in the New Year. But otherwise it is difficult to imagine anything which would make the extraordinary progression of this utterly unassuming artist so clear and vivid and intimately revealing.

We skate rapidly through the Impressionist years, noting that, even before Gauguin became Gauguin, he was possessed of outstanding skills (there are few more brilliant Impressionist depictions of snow than the "Snow Scene" of 1883). But when the moment of truth comes, in Brittany in 1888 (the reason for the timing of this particular show, perhaps?), the effect is stunning.

At some point in the summer of 1888, between "Young Bretons Bathing" and "Children Wrestling", Gauguin suddenly seems to find out what, for him, painting is all about, and from then he develops with a single-minded consistency amazing to behold. The later periods in Brittany and then in Tahiti are splendidly documented, with familiar masterpieces from all over the world, and many rarer works, like the carved decoration for the end-wall of his last Tahitian house, which has never before been reassembled in its entirety. I shall return to this show when it arrives in Europe,



Prime example: Gauguin's "Day of the Gods (Mahana No Atua)", 1894, on loan from the Art Institute of Chicago for the touring exhibition

but the pleasures of seeing it first in Chicago are inestimable.

Not least because we may be morally certain it will prove to be a lot better displayed in the States than in Paris. Certainly the difference between the version of the Degas show seen at the Grand Palais and that seen at the Metropolitan Museum in New York (until January 8) is, despite a number of significant losses and gains in what is shown, primarily one of display.

At the Grand Palais they tend to think that, being what they are, all they need do is stick the pictures up on the walls. America knows better: it knows how to sell art to a vast new lay public by elegant and meaningful arrangement, a sufficiency of explanatory signs on the wall (to be read or not at will), and even the ubiquitous walkie-talkie guides, which, heard in sibilant whispers all round you, sometimes give the odd im-

pression that you are walking through a grove full of cicadas. Easy to be superior about all this. Not so easy to justify the superiority in any but the most snobbishly elitist terms. And even those will not cover sloppy and uninspired arrangement of the actual pictures.

The way the Metropolitan shows its major exhibitions is usually beyond reproach, and should be taken to heart by all European galleries and museums. Especially since the Met usually has so many such shows at a time. At present it has also a wonderful Boccioni retrospective (until January 8) and a fine commemoration of Georgia O'Keeffe (until February 5).

The centenary of Boccioni's birth in 1882 was widely marked in Italy, but there seems never before to have been such a resplendent sampling of his short but

prolific career outside his native land. Most visitors to the show in New York appear to be encountering a totally unknown quantity, and the universal response is to wonder why he should have remained so obscure. Again, we can observe a development of astonishing consistency from the earliest works (illustrations in the style of — can it be? — Cecil Aldin or Dudley Hardy) through his Divisionist phase to the explosive works of his Futurist prime. Also, these really are paintings you have to see in the original: no reproduction does justice to the richness and subtlety of his painting with dots and blobs, and the dazzling colours of such vital Futurist works as "The Laugh" tend when they are reproduced to look merely strident.

Probably it would be even more revelatory to have the O'Keeffe show in Europe, for here is a modern American master who has

never been adequately shown on this side of the Atlantic. The progression is from the monochromatic Symbolist works of the First World War period to the Disney-like richness (before the fact, of course) of the first flower paintings in the early Twenties, then through a brief period in New York, forsaking the (as they tactfully say) "feminine imagery" of the lush, internally viewed flowers for the "masculine imagery" of skyscrapers, and then on to New Mexico, with its bare mesas sometimes relieved by flowers and skulls. All through the voice is commanding individuality. But the pictures must be seen for the voice to be heard.

The other big excitement of the New York area right now, Courbet Reconsidered at the Brooklyn Museum until January 16, also contains a famous piece of "feminine imagery", up to now honoured almost entirely in *absentia*

and through the sort of fuzzy reproduction circulated in all the best books about erotic art. To the credit of the organizers, they have managed to run the original of "The Origin of the World" to earth. To their even greater credit, they have boldly hung it with no nonsense in the last room of the show, hard by "The Sleepers" commissioned in 1866 by the same Turkish diplomat. And the astonishing thing is that nobody at all seems to have had kittens: old maid or school party, they all take it in their stride.

Which is just as it should be. The show is so evidently serious, and is as far as possible, given that the size and fragility of several capital works forbid their travelling, definitive.

There is something very appealing about Courbet's sheer, bloody-minded refusal to appeal in any of the obvious ways. He is deliberately awkward and contrary. His woods look as though they would be uncomfortable to scramble through, his seas as though you would bathe in them at your peril, and even his nudes, highly changed as they are with erotic feeling, willfully exclude intimacy. But what a strong and commanding painter he is, "puissant et solitaire".

I am not sure whether the same can be said about The Edwardians and After, a weird and wonderful show which begins an extensive tour with a season at the IBM Gallery of Science and Art, until November 26. This is the latest export of our own Royal Academy, and covers the activities of members between 1900 and 1950. It is certainly not much concerned with the march of modernism in Britain, and one wonders what sort of appeal this assemblage of such as James Gunn, Frank Bramley and Sir Frank Dicksee can have for innocent Americans, apart from a sheer nostalgic sense of "they don't do it like that any more". But then I suppose the eminent, internationally unknown Poles in the National Academy's Nineteenth Century Polish Painting show (until November 27) must create the same feeling of oddity, surprise, and dislocation of the time-space.

It is clearly a tribute to New York and New Yorkers that two such relatively obscure shows should find prime locations in the midst of Manhattan. Can one imagine the equivalent happening in London? If we cannot, that perhaps also sheds some light on why we tend these days to get left out of the race for Degas, Gauguin and such.

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LONDON DEBUTS

The Wigmore Hall debut of the 26-year-old Swedish cellist, Torleif Theodén, was one of those rare and frustrating encounters of a tiny audience and a huge talent. Spotted so far only by discerning English and Irish concert promoters, and as yet backed by neither a record company nor any important London agent, Theodén's playing has all the technical authority and breadth of vision of a potentially great performer.

He is a big player (the piano, open on its big stick and played with great *clan* by Stefan Bojsten never threatened to drown the voice of the

cello); and he has confidence and ideas to match. The opening of his Brahms E minor Sonata, for instance, was weighed deep in each firm bow's length, slow enough for the long melody to breathe and sing, poised and alert enough to take off at once in a cutting brilliance when register and structure demanded it.

The light legato of the second movement's Trio, and the energy of the Allegro are seldom made so physically compelling. But the evening's *tour de force* was the Schmittke Sonata of 1978, extreme in tempo, range and dynamics, yet held together by a cumulative emotional intensity and intellectual strength to which Theodén showed himself every bit the equal.

His way with Prokofiev's C

major Sonata was to play as if to a packed Festival Hall. The encores went on long; the next move must be a concerto invitation from a London orchestra.

Hilary Finch

The Clarinet Connection is a group that deliberately adopts a didactic approach to its programming, and in Andrew McCullough, the clarinetist concerned, it possesses a highly-motivated, experienced figurehead. This Purcell Room debut included much that was outside the conventional orbit of programme planning, and was thus all the more effective for that.

But, in Poulenc's Clarinet Sonata, for instance, there were too many ugly sounds high in the register, though

Garde's four Fantasy Pieces Op 43, were heard to be effective and charming enough examples of their light, virtuosic genre. Wayne Marshall here provided subtle contributions at the piano, though his own Fantasia on Gershwin Themes, notionally for the full trio (including the cello of Katherine Thulborn), concentrated rather indulgently on his own, admittedly formidable improvisational technique. There was also a new piece, Jeffrey Wilson's *Elegy*, written in memory of his father. Again the writing seemed at times unevenly distributed, though Wilson's lyrical ability is considerable and the work's overriding gentleness was realized beautifully by these players.

Stephen Pettitt

TOMORROW

Karge's conquest: the German author Manfred Karge talks about his play *The Conquest of the South Pole*

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THE ARTS 2

Rhymes with reasons

When anthologies are reviewed it seems inevitable that they are taken as much to task for their omissions as for their inclusions. Kingsley Amis's friend Philip Larkin once wrote that his distaste for all things modernist could be encapsulated as a hatred for the three Ps, and all they engendered: Picasso, Pound and Parker (Charles the saxophonist). Amis's own dislike for modernism ("might as well call that 'modern'", he once told me in a previous interview) is also well enough chronicled, and so the absence of Pound, not to mention T.S. Eliot, will come as no surprise to the regular Amis-follower. There are, however, more surprising gaps on the index page: no Byron. Only one each from Wordsworth, Pope, Samuel Johnson, and Yeats. And there is hardly anything that does not rhyme and scan.

Amis, however, has provided himself with the perfect escape chute. The introduction begins with the sentence: "This is a collection of my favourite poems, which is not the same thing as a collection of the couple of hundred English poems I may happen to think are the best."

"It's not that I think *Kubla Khan* is an inferior poem," Amis says: "but it just doesn't do it for

Kingsley Amis tells Chris Peachment about his taste in English poetry, as it has been reflected in a newly-published anthology

me. I am just hoping that what makes a strong personal appeal to me, might also to other people. You can't really pretend that Alfred Noyes's *The Highwayman* is a good poem, but it is better than many might think, and it appeals to me still. Try and overcome your prejudices: is what I am saying. On the other hand, you couldn't have a better poem than Matthew Arnold's *Dover Beach*. But it's not there, because I don't feel it was written for me."

Almost everything on display is marked by the virtue of clarity. Amis quotes Larkin's assertion that "there is not much to say about my work. When you have read a poem, that's it: it's all quite clear what it means."

"Too right," Amis says. "The more there is to say about a poem doesn't necessarily make it a better poem. A lot of all this 'difficulty' is the result of university teaching, and the professors having to justify their existence. I am not at all sure that poetry itself has improved since it started being taught as a subject."

A.E. Housman is given 13 poems in the collection, more than Larkin (12) and only equalled by Robert Graves. Musing in the

notes on the man's conventional exclusion from the ranks of "great poets", Amis concludes: "He cannot be made likeable or interesting or even someone you feel you can understand or see all the way round. And, long before television, that sort of thing started to count for much more than what a man actually wrote."

Of the many "finds" with which this collection is studded, and which make it such a pleasure, a notable one is John Davidson's *The Runaway Stag*, which provokes the runaway excitement of a stag hunt along with a sorrowful acceptance of human cruelty. Amis names it as one of his favourites. "Terrific, isn't it? It wouldn't be nearly so effective if he didn't enter into it body and soul. And all those technical hunting terms like 'tuffed'. They make all the difference. There must be 30 or 40 of them. It would be hard to explain to someone why they are necessary, but they are." The poem also gallops along to an appropriately steady metre.

"How does a poet who doesn't rhyme or scan know when he's got it right?" Amis says. "All he can say is: well, this poem is as good as it's ever going to be. Of course it's no good saying that no decent poem doesn't rhyme or scan. I could propose that as an argument, but it might take too long here. James Fenton recently wrote a very good piece about memorability in a poem, saying how much easier it is to memorize poems which rhyme and scan. And the thing that learning by heart teaches you is that the hardest parts to remember are often the weakest bits of the poem."

"My English master at school taught me to write out poems that I liked, in my own handwriting. It increases your sense of ownership of the poem. And it's nice to have a sense of ownership over a poem." One might add that that is exactly what this personal selection is all about.

The recently published collected edition of Philip Larkin brought to light a large number of new poems, including some late uncollected works which display an amount of bitterness and misery surprising even for Larkin. Was he finally such an unhappy man?

"Well, he was a great man to have lunch with. If he could hear what

you said, that is, as he was very deaf. He also had this terrible stunner when he was younger, so I suppose he was a bit cut off. But he wasn't the sort of chap to be found reading a book at a party."

So the misanthropy and sadness resided in his inner life? "Oh, he had a lot of inner life." Amis doesn't make that sound like a very good sort of thing to have at all. "I suppose in a way, his life points a moral. Nothing venture, nothing win. If you don't get involved with women, then of course you do avoid all sorts of horrors. But then it also leaves out all the sorts of things which are often the most important things in life."

"He used to write that children were horrible. Well, I used to take him to task on that, since he never had any. Mind you, it's not that children are sweet. It's that they are far more horrible, in ways which he couldn't possibly imagine. As well as being quite sweet too, of course. But we don't consider that do we? We just get on and have them."

As our lunch draws to a close, the waiter arrives with the sweet menu. "I won't have a sweet, thank you," says Amis. "But I will look at the menu anyway. It's a kind of pornography."

• The Amis Anthology is published by Hutchinson at £12.95



Kingsley Amis enjoys the sense of ownership of poems which he knows

Not half bad

CONCERTS

Boulez Weekend South Bank

Here was a festival within a festival, a weekend when the South Bank's long Schoenberg sequence came to a node of intensity under the aegis of Pierre Boulez, and when there was the unusual opportunity to hear on successive days the classics of musical revolution that Schoenberg and Stravinsky were writing at the same time: *Pierrot lunaire* and *The Rite of Spring*.

It was just a pity that the Orchestre de Paris were not in best shape, especially where ensemble and tuning were concerned, for Daniel Barenboim, their conductor in *The Rite*.

One might well have wished that the division of labour had been reversed, and that Boulez had had charge of the Stravinsky, leaving Barenboim to find perhaps more breadth and character in Schoenberg's op 29 Suite, though maybe the biggest problem here was quite simply the size of the Festival Hall for a piece of chamber music.

Between these works on Saturday night we heard Berio's new *Concerto II* (*Echoing Curves*), another of his self-extrapolations. This time the site revisited is the full-scale piano concerto *Points on a Curve to Find*... of 1974.

The expansion doubles the length of the piece to 25 minutes and also increases the orchestra, which is seated unusually, with violins to the centre rear, woodwind to the right and brass on either side;

there is no percussion, but the celesta of *Points* is joined by an electric organ, which has a prominent role at one striking point in echoing indeed the piano's chords as bulging sonorities.

Apart from this passage, and from a magical close with melodies bursting to flower on solo instruments, many of the best ideas seem to come from the original 1974 score or from the recent orchestral *Formazioni*, which was similarly for an orchestra laid out unconventionally.

The piece is superbly done, but takes a while to persuade one it could not have been equally beguiling if it had gone differently. Barenboim's playing of the solo part, too, seemed to gain in confidence and weight as time went on; Boulez conducted.

His performance of Schoenberg's op 29 was followed on Sunday afternoon by a programme of that work's near neighbours, again with the Ensemble InterContemporain. The *Serenade* op 24 was beautifully played, with crisp but trenchant gestures.

The performance of *Pierrot lunaire* also had much of excellence, particularly in Elizabeth Laurence's solo performance, drawing character from the sounds of the words, from the setting and from a variety of cool, bleached vocal colours more than from any dramatic interpretation of the work.

In a pre-concert of smaller items, the outstanding performance was that of Boulez's own *Sonatina*, with a pianist able to be strong and feather-textured at once, and a flautist gliding through the resonances.

Paul Griffiths

Shockingly good for Shostakovich

RPO/Ashkenazy Festival Hall/ Radio 3

Sunday's concert in the shared South Bank and Barbican series, "Shostakovich: Music From The Flames" drove its audience into the very heart of the inferno. In juxtaposing the Fourth Symphony and the First Violin Concerto, Vladimir Ashkenazy and the Royal Philharmonic recreated the shockwave of two works written at particularly disturbing times of the composer's life, both of which were not performed until the 1950s and 1960s.

In linking the Violin Concerto, in his memoirs, with the contemporary *Cycle On Jewish Folk Poetry*, and the Fourth Quartet (all written between 1947-9), Shostakovich spelled out what in their own time was to be heard very much between the lines: and what, in our time, and particularly in a performance as perceptive and deeply committed as that of Itzhak Perlman, is most powerfully present for those with ears to hear.

Shostakovich speaks of the voice of the individual crying against the mindless, raging mob: the effect of the violins' first, barely vibrant, line rising, long-bowed, ever higher above the opaque strings, or its long isolation when at last freed in cadenza from the grip of the Passacaglia reinforces words in history and also



Committed: Itzhak Perlman playful virtuosity was ideally suited to the raw nerve-endings of the Scherzo. This dry, percussive dance of death was orchestrally as rhythmically astute as the final Burlesque; though Ashkenazy could have encouraged the woodwind to more searing entries.

This was not a problem in the Fourth Symphony. At a time when officialdom demanded from art all things heroic, bright and beautiful, Shostakovich created nothing less than a monster of dislocation and irony.

In spite of his apprehension about the work in talking to Richard Morrison on this page last week, Ashkenazy conducted a lucid, authoritative performance holding terror and whimsy, savagery and sentiment in firm structural balance.

H.F.



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TELEVISION AND RADIO

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BBC1

6.00 Cee-fax AM. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins.

6.35 *Edgar Kennedy in Mother-in-Law's Day* (b/w). 6.55 *Weather*.

7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Kirsty Wark and John Stapleton. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25; regional news and travel bulletins at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27. 8.55 Regional news and weather.

9.00 *Open Air*. Viewers' comment on yesterday's television programmes. 9.20 *Kilroy* Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on gossip.

10.00 News and weather followed by *Going for Gold*, European general knowledge quiz presented by Henry Kelly (r). 10.25 *Children's BBC* introduced by Andy Crane, begins with *Playhouse* 10.50 *Crane* (r). 10.55 *Five to Eleven*, Sarah Greene with a reading.

11.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air*. With comment on the *Blockbusters* quiz game and Alan Corin discussing television critics.

12.00 News and weather followed by *Daytime Live* with Alan Titchmarsh, Sue Cook and Nicola Benjamin. The guests include Christopher Bigsby and singer Jennifer Rush. Plus more tranquilizer addiction advice 12.55 Regional news and weather.

1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.30 *Neighbours*. Rob is rescued by Gail 1.50 *Golfing for Gold*. European general knowledge game presented by Henry Kelly.

2.15 *Film: Great Day* (1944, b/w) starring Eric Portman and Flora Robson. The story of an English village's preparations for a wartime visit by Eleanor Roosevelt. Directed by Lance Comfort.

3.30 *The Pink Panther Show* (r).

3.50 *PC Pinkerton* 3.55 *Fremantle* narrated by John Alderton. 4.05 *Ratman* with Pamela Stephenson (r). 4.15 *Simon and the Witch*. Episode two of the 12-part comedy serial 4.35 *Knewhow* with Johnny Cash. 4.45 *Ann de Calais* and Mark Satter. 5.00 *Newsround* 5.05 *Grange Hill*. Episode 15 (of 20) (r). (Cee-fax) 5.35 *Neighbours* (r).

6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayes.

6.30 *London Plus* and weather. The Hatchers from Newport, Isle of Wight, meet the Thomas family from Cardiff. The questionmaster is Noel Edmonds.

7.30 *EastEnders*. Matthew leaves Carmel speechless with his solution to her quandary; and Den receives a visit from Sharon. (Cee-fax)

8.00 *Pavly Towers*. Basil's surprise plans for Sybil on their wedding anniversary are thrown into disarray when Sybil walks out on him (r).

8.30 *A Question of Sport* presented by David Coleman. This week Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham are joined by Paul Gascoigne, Fiona May, Nick Foster and Ian Stark. (Cee-fax)

9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Martyn Lewis. Regional news and weather.

9.30 *South of the Border*. Pearl and Finn come to the assistance of a music producer who has fallen on hard times. (Cee-fax)

10.30 *Film: The Consequences* (1981) starring Robert De Niro and Robert Duvall. Drama about a hard-bitten detective investigating the killing of a prostitute, and his politically ambitious Roman Catholic priest brother, who, he discovers, is shielding a prominent businessman who has links with the murder. With Charles Durning. Directed by Ulu Grosbard.

12.05 *am Weather*.

ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with News and The Morning Programme introduced by Richard Kevs. 7.00 *News* followed by *Good Morning Britain* presented by Mike Morris and Kathryn Hollaway. 8.00 *News*; 9.00 *News* and *After Nine* which includes a discussion on arguments.

9.25 *Lucky Ladders*. Quiz game show. The questionmaster is Laurie Bennett. 9.55 *Thames* news and weather 10.00 *The Time*. The Place... Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical subject.

10.40 *This Morning*. Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes items on knitting and teaching young children and babies to swim. Plus national news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55.

12.10 *Rainbow*. Learning with Wiggles 12.30 *A Country Practice*.

1.00 *News* at One with Julia Somerville. 1.20 *Thames* news and weather.

1.30 *Film: The Captain's Table* (1958) starring John Gielgud. Comedy about the master of an old freighter who is made captain of a luxury cruise ship. With Peggy Cummings, Donald Sinden and Nadia Gray. Directed by Jack Lee.

3.00 *Give Us a Clue*. Quiz game presented by Michael Parkinson. This afternoon Lional Blair and Liza Goddard are joined by Joan Boht, Janet Ellis, Kenny Everett, John Holmes, Susan Jameson and Jonathan Morris. 3.25 *Thames* news and weather 3.30 *The Young Doctors*. Medical drama series set in a large Australian city hospital.

4.00 *Tickle on the Tum*. Village tales for children. 4.10 *The Rattles*. 4.30 *The Tickle*. With Matthew Corbett and Tommy Boyd. 4.45 *Count Duckula*.

5.15 *Blockbusters*. General knowledge quiz for teenagers, presented by Bob Holmes.

5.45 *Thames* news and weather followed by *Crimestoppers*.

6.25 *Help with benefits* news.

6.30 *Prove It*. Chris Tarrant meets another selection of people with things to prove and weather.

7.00 *Strike It Lucky*. Quiz game show presented by Michael Barrymore.

7.30 *On the Big Hill*. (see *Choyes*)

8.00 *The Bill*. PC Malcolm Hayes refuses a commutation for bravery after tackling a man who breaks into a shop armed with a butcher's meat cleaver. (Oracle)

8.30 *The Return of Shelley*. The final programme of the comedy series starring Hywel Bennett.

9.00 *Boon*. Ken and Margaret are given the job of protecting a woman who is to give her ex-husband a divorce, but rival newspapers make their life difficult. Starring Michael Elphick and Amanda Burton.

10.00 *News at Ten* with Sandy Gall and Carol Barnes.

10.30 *Thames* news and weather.

10.35 *Witness*. The second of three programmes about the world of the social worker.

11.35 *Second Step*. Bowling from the Lad's Club, Norwich.

12.30 *am Love Me Love Me Not*. Game show illustrating how little men and women know about the opposite sex.

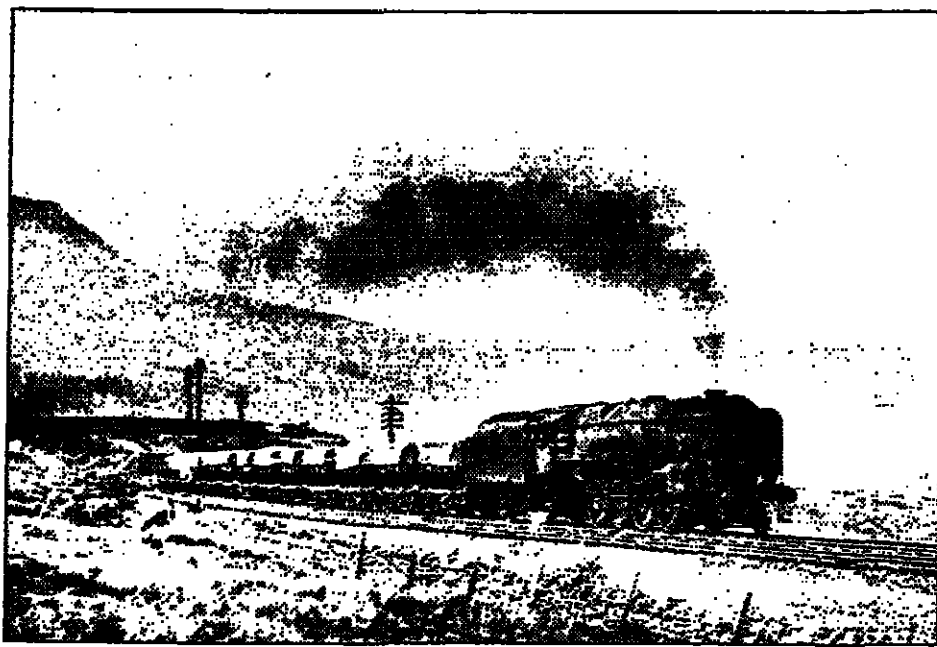
1.00 *Donahue*. Chat show discussing tonight, why some women seduce teenage boys.

2.00 *News* headlines followed by *Film: Madam Gorky - My Apprenticeship* (1939, b/w). The second film of the trilogy telling the life of the celebrated Russian. Directed by Mark Donnell.

4.00 *News* headlines followed by *Donna*.

5.00 *ITV Morning News*. Ends at 6.00.

In praise of steam



Changing tracks: the Settle-Carlisle line is the first subject of a new six-part series about the changes in our railways seen through the eyes of passengers and railwaymen (BBC2, 8.00pm)

Watching the "Sir Nigel Gresley" belching filthy black smoke over the Yorkshire Dales, it is easy to have mixed feelings about the demise of steam. But nostalgia is a wonderful tranquilliser, a memory selector which suppresses the worst and highlights the best. There is much to be said for the *Settle-Carlisle* (BBC2, 8.00pm), a series of six films marking the 20th anniversary of British Rail's last steam service. Now it is enthusiasts who provide the steam, though whether they can also raise the funds needed to save the Settle-Carlisle line - subject of tonight's programme - is another matter. If Thatcherite economics had been the test, the Settle-Carlisle would never have been started in the first place. But built it was, an heroic feat of Victorian engineering in which 200 navvies perished and the magnificent Ribblesdale viaduct with its 24 soaring arches

TELEVISION CHOICE

stands as a proud monument to the age of the pick and shovel. As the *Settle-Carlisle* awaits what may be the final of its many death sentences, the film evokes the character of the line and the men who work on it. Veteran signalmen recall working in remote areas where it could be snowing one minute and shirt sleeve weather the next and the cameras linger affectionately on some of the finest countryside in England. Economically, the Settle-Carlisle was probably a nonsense from the beginning. But there is more to life to balancing books and many who watch the film will hope it is not an obituary.

● The pity about *On the Big Hill* (ITV, 7.30pm) is that it had to be sited up into half hours instead of being shown

in more substantial chunks. It is a story that would be told better with fewer interruptions. The big hill is Mount Everest and the series follows the attempt to conquer it this year by a team of soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. If it sometimes seems to the ignorant that shinning up Everest is now a formality, only three of the 19 British attempts have succeeded and one climber in ten fails to return. This time there are 36, plus the camera team from Granada Television and, quaintly, an artist from the *Illustrated London News*. Even if there are casualties, the expedition's leader Colonel Dougie Keegan warns, there will be no going back. The team has a get together in the Lake District and then flies off to Kathmandu. But it is going to be another couple of programmes before the assault begins in earnest.

Peter Waymark

The absurdity of war

RADIO CHOICE

● Bob Hoskins gives an exhilarating and full-blooded performance in his 50-minute solo as Pistol from Shakespeare's *Henry V* in Peter Motteley's *After Agincourt* (Radio 3, 9.55pm). It's the common soldier delivering judgement on the battle and on the king himself in the sort of terms a 15th-century Alf Garnett used using his chums afterwards in the Boar's Head in Eastcheap. "It's got a lot to answer for as 'young army', to reflect Pistol. And the king certainly has, if you include the death of Falstaff, the slaughter of the French prisoners - leaving Pistol with a financial loss - and the execution of two comrades-in-arms for the theft of 30p worth of silver from a church. We few, we 'happy few'! Tell that to Bardolph and Nym," Pistol says bitterly,



Bob Hoskins - the common soldier at war (R3, 9.55pm)

adding that when men go soldiering there's got to be something in it for them. He is at his angriest when it comes to the battle itself. "It was absolute sodding chaos," and some listeners may find the vivid detailing of the precision of the pike in killing an enemy

soldier with the indiscriminate of the battalions a little too strong to stomach. Nevertheless this evaluation of the battle and of the king's behaviour comes off because the author is at considerable pains to stay within Shakespeare's text while giving expression to one soldier's anger at the futility of war and of the absurdity of the rules set down for its conduct.

● For afternoon listeners a series called *Turning Point* has the poet Seamus Heaney as its first guest (Radio 4, 4.05pm). Bel Mooney talks to him about his life and in particular his decision 16 years ago to leave Belfast and move to the Republic. He and his wife and three small children had to readjust to a very low income and isolation for six years when he decided to put the practice of poetry at the centre of his life.

Ken Gosling

BBC2

9.00 *Cee-fax* 9.30 *Daytime* on Two: the role of television in learning 10.00 *Bodybuilding in Austria* 10.15 *Beat Girl* 10.40 *Investigating science* 11.00 *Clothes* 11.15 *Wonders* 11.35 *A church in Yorkshire* 12.00 *Questions and answers* 12.30 *Newton and the space shuttle* 12.40 *Pupils' third year* 1.00 *German* 1.25 *King Robo* (r). 1.30 *Animal Fair* (r). 1.40 *House Garden* (r).

2.00 *News* and weather followed by *You and Me* (r). 2.15 *See Heart* (r). 2.40 *Under Sail* (r).

3.00 *News* and weather followed by *One in Four*. Magazine series about disability 3.30 *On the Course*. The veteran Australian golfer Neil MacGregor (r). 3.50 *News*, regional news and weather 4.00 *Catchword*. Word association game 4.30 *Living on the Land*. The RSPB returns to Morecambe Bay (r). 4.55 *Holiday Outings*. A hotel for pets (r).

5.00 *Advice Shop* examines the Employment Training scheme controversy. 5.30 *First Step Garden* (r). (Cee-fax)

6.00 *Film: Devil's Canyon* (1953) starring Dale Robertson. Western drama about a US Marshal who kills two men in a shoot-out and is then sent to prison where he meets an old enemy. Directed by Alfred Werker.

7.30 *The Rock and Roll Years*. 1972 - the year of the national coal strike. Among those providing the musical moments are Don McLean and Roberta Flack (r).

8.00 *The Train Now Departing* (see *Choyes*)

8.30 *Food and Drink*. This first of a new series includes the secret of perfect scrambled eggs.

9.00 *Colin's Sandwich*. (Cee-fax)

9.30 *The Mind Machine*. The brain's talent for language.

10.30 *Building Signs*.

10.50 *Newsnight* 11.15 *Weather* 11.30 *Film: Cat People* (1943, b/w) starring Simone Simon, Kent Smith and Tom Conway. Horror story about a young New Yorker who falls in love with a Serbian woman whose past is haunted by the worship of beasts. Directed by Jacques Tourneur. Ends at 12.35am.

CHANNEL 4

9.30 *Schools* 12.00 *Sesame Street* 12.30 *Business Day* 1.00 *Jobsearch*. Series on job-searching skills (r). (Oracle)

1.30 *Be Your Own Boss*. Buying a business (r). (Oracle)

2.00 *Film: The Mean Upstairs* (1958, b/w) starring Richard Attenborough. Comedy about a man who suddenly attacks a policeman and then barricades himself in his bed-sit. Directed by Don Chaffey.

3.40 *The Open Window Show*. Today Miss Winfrey tells couples in her audience on social and moral questions.

4.30 *Fifteen to One*.

5.00 *American Football*. The Houston Oilers at the Seattle Seahawks.

6.00 *The Cosby Show*.

6.30 *The Secret Life of the Vacuum Cleaner*. The first of a new short-part series, devised and written by cartoonist Tim Harlan from his series in the Observer, explaining the workings and development of domestic machines. (Oracle)

7.00 *Channel 4 News* with Nicholas Owen and Nik Gowing.

7.30 *Comment* followed by *Weather* 8.00 *The Killing Kingdom*. Dr A. T. Stewart from Northern Ireland investigates the Welsh identity. Welshman Kim Howells responds. (Oracle)

8.30 *Money*. The first of a new financial advice series.

9.00 *The Other Europe*. Programme five of the six-part series on communist bloc countries.

10.00 *Europeans: Dead Men Don't Travel*. A Swiss-made thriller about the killing of a person whose corpse is discovered at the time of the Basle carnival.

11.05 *Scott*. A new seven-part series devoted to food, presented by Dawn French.

11.25 *American Football* (r).

12.35 *am Rowing*. The Westminster Regatta.

1.35 *Film: Backfire* (1962, b/w). An Edgar Wallace mystery about a man who resents his business partner's high living which is putting their business in danger. Directed by Paul Almond. Ends at 2.40.

VARIATIONS

HTV WALES As HTV West except 2.30pm-3.00pm *News* 4.30-5.00 *News* 5.00-5.30 *News* 5.30-6.00 *News* 6.00-6.30 *News* 6.30-7.00 *News* 7.00-7.30 *News* 7.30-8.00 *News* 8.00-8.30 *News* 8.30-9.00 *News* 9.00-9.30 *News* 9.30-10.00 *News* 10.00-10.30 *News* 10.30-11.00 *News* 11.00-11.30 *News* 11.30-12.00 *News* 12.00-12.30 *News* 12.30-1.00 *News* 1.00-1.30 *News* 1.30-2.00 *News* 2.00-2.30 *News* 2.30-3.00 *News* 3.00-3.30 *News* 3.30-4.00 *News* 4.00-4.30 *News* 4.30-5.00 *News* 5.00-5.30 *News* 5.30-6.00 *News* 6.00-6.30 *News* 6.30-7.00 *News* 7.00-7.30 *News* 7.30-8.00 *News* 8.00-8.30 *News* 8.30-9.00 *News* 9.00-9.30 *News* 9.30-10.00 *News* 10.00-10.30 *News* 10.30-11.00 *News* 11.00-11.30 *News* 11.30-12.00 *News* 12.00-12.30 *News* 12.30-1.00 *News* 1.00-1.30 *News* 1.30-2.00 *News* 2.00-2.30 *News* 2.30-3.00 *News* 3.00-3.30 *News* 3.30-4.00 *News* 4.00-4.30 *News* 4.30-5.00 *News* 5.00-5.30 *News* 5.30-6.00 *News* 6.00-6.30 *News* 6.30-7.00 *News* 7.00-7.30 *News* 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MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1452.5 (-8.7)	US dollar 1.8085 (-0.0065)
FT 100 1794.3 (-8.4)	W German mark 3.1558 (+0.0086)
USM (Datastream) 159.85 (-1.44)	Trade-weighted 77.1 (+0.1)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Ruling in IDG case is delayed

The City Takeover Panel has again delayed judgement of the Irish Distillers' Group appeal against a Panel executive ruling that it breached the Takeover Code in helping Pernod, a friendly bidder. It will make a ruling on Thursday and if the appeal succeeds, Pernod is almost certain to win the six-month bid battle.

Unilever ahead

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch fats, detergents, foods and toiletries group had pre-tax profits of £410 million, up 14 per cent, in the third quarter of the year. The interim dividend is raised to 3.89p (3.54p). *Temps, page 26*

MH to £12m

The purchase of George Armitage, one of Britain's last independent brickmakers, has boosted pre-tax profits of Marshalls Halifax, the concrete products maker, from £7.08 million to £12.05 million in the six months to end-September. The interim dividend rises by 0.25p to 2.25p. *Temps, page 26*

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2066.15 (-0.88)
Dow Jones	2066.15 (-0.88)
Nikkei Average	28520.90 (+31.33)
Hong Kong	2537.99 (-45.75)
Amsterdam Gen	2707 (-2.1)
Sydney AO	1526.9 (-31.3)
Frankfurt	1568.1 (-0.1)
Brussels	5323.6 (-52.5)
Paris CAC	3804 (-5.2)
Zurich SIK Gen	486.7 (-18.0)
London:	
FT: All-Share	937.87 (-5.55)
FT: 100	1021.35 (-5.88)
FT: Gold Mines	178.6 (+4.0)
FT: Fixed Interest	97.28 (+0.08)
FT: Govt Secs	88.37 (+0.04)
Recent Issues	Page 29
Closing prices	Page 29

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISERS:	
Basset Foods	282p (+13p)
Meat Trade Supp	307.5p (+10p)
Scott & Robertson	280p (+20p)
Mountleigh	184.5p (+10.5p)
Barton Transport	72.5p (+2.5p)
FALLS:	
Amersham	533p (-18p)
Hickson	211.5p (-15p)
Daigety	318p (-10p)
Bellway	225p (-10p)
Keep Trust	337.5p (-10p)
Berkeley Govett	145p (-10p)
Alcon	820.5p (-12p)
Drayton Cons	485.5p (-12p)
Gresham House	440p (-10p)
Bradford	65p (-20p)
Closing prices	Page 29
SEAG Volume	2742m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base:	12%
3-month interbank 12 ^{1/2} %-12 ^{3/4} %	
3-month eligible bills:	11 ^{3/4} %-11 ^{1/2} %
buying rate:	
US Prime Rate:	10%
Federal Funds:	8 ^{1/4} %
3-month Treasury Bills:	7.77-7.75%
30-year bonds:	100 ^{1/2} %-100 ^{3/4} %

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£1.8085	£1.8085
£2.1545	£2.1545
£2.1545	£2.1545
£2.1545	£2.1545
£2.1545	£2.1545
£2.1545	£2.1545
£2.1545	£2.1545
£2.1545	£2.1545
£2.1545	£2.1545

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$420.50 PM \$419.30	
close \$420.50-\$421.00 (\$222.50-233.00)	
New York:	
Comex \$420.80-\$421.30	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) pm \$13.10 (\$13.70)	
* Denotes latest trading price	

THE TIMES

STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

● Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: firms with figures out included BOC (02566), up 1p, and Unilever (04051), down 10p. Ahead of results London International (02221) dropped 3p and De La Rue (02027) weakened 4p. Mountleigh (02771) was 16p better but fading bid hopes saw Marina Developments (02941) shed 13p. ● Recent additions include: Mecca Leisure 74% conv pref 03497, Wilding Office Equipment referred 03498. ● Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off-peak inc. VAT.

DTI will not 'unscramble' Elders deals

By Cliff Feltham

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries last night lost its battle to have Elders DXL, the Australian brewing group, stripped of its 10 per share stake acquired in a dawn raid minutes after its takeover bid had been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The Department of Trade and Industry, which has been examining the issue, decided that forcing Elders to "unscramble" the deal would be unfair on other investors in the company. "No good purpose would be served and harm could be done to third parties by the unscrambling of deals which took place in good faith in the marketplace," the DTI said.

Mr Alick Rankin, the S&N chief executive, said: "We are desperately disappointed that there appears to be no redress for our position."

Legal advisers at the DTI had been taking a close look at the affair after strong protests from Scottish & Newcastle.

Observers thought the DTI would take a tough line, particularly after the public condemnation of Elders' tactics by Lord Young, the Trade and Industry Secretary. On

Friday he changed the rules, making it illegal for a company to buy shares in its target if the bid had been referred. He described Elders' purchases as "extremely regrettable."

Elders, advised by County NatWest, the merchant bank, had surprised the City by springing its market raid on Scottish & Newcastle and snapping up £141 million of the company's shares, lifting its stake to 23.64 per cent, immediately after its bid had been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The tactics sparked off a row with the Office of Fair Trading which claimed it had told Elders not to buy any more shares. Elders has maintained it was not ordered to stop buying.

Elders was subsequently stripped of the voting rights on the new block of shares while the bid inquiry takes place. But S&N feels this penalty is still inadequate and is bitter about the affair, particularly as it had given a warning to the OFT that Elders should be prevented from further share purchases.

Elders has always claimed it acted within the law and did not flout any regulations by

picking up the share stake. Meanwhile, Mr John Elliott, chief executive of Elders DXL, yesterday said the "Scottish Mafia" had been responsible for its £1.6 billion bid being referred (writes Richard Bartley).

He defined the "Scottish Mafia" as "some people associated with S&N who clearly did everything they could to get a reference."

They saw it as "the best form of defence." However, Mr Elliott said the bid by his group would succeed. "I don't think the people are against us, not even politically," he said in Adelaide after the general meeting. Mr Elliott rejected criticism of his company's market raid.

"All we did was operate within the rules," he said. "We got those shares (10 per cent of its 23.64 per cent stake) totally within the law, and within the spirit of it."

He reiterated that Elders had agreed to limit its voting in S&N to 15 per cent after criticism of the purchases.

The meeting approved an Aus\$600 million (£283 million) scheme for Elders to buy back its own shares. This involves the sale of up to 10 per cent of Elders to its associate Ordvest Pty Ltd.

Abbey Life plans to try again after merger fails

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Mr Michael Hephner, the chairman and chief executive of Abbey Life, insisted yesterday that he would try to renegotiate the £1.1 billion merger with Lloyds Bank, after shareholders threw it out at an extraordinary meeting.

Mr Hephner said he had been given a mandate to renegotiate because more than 50 per cent of the votes cast were in favour of the deal.

The proposal failed because Abbey did not muster the necessary 75 per cent vote required to approve the merger plan.

Abbey's attempt to renegotiate appeared to have the approval of several leading shareholders who had voted against the deal. PostTel,

which holds about 4.5 per cent, said it was against Lloyds taking a controlling 57 per cent interest in Abbey and the transfer of Lloyds Bank's insurance business. But it supported the commercial part of the deal and would back a move to complete the merger on different terms.

With only 52 per cent of shares voted, there was a 59 per cent majority in favour of the deal. To Abbey's surprise, an even larger majority - 64.4 per cent - supported the special resolution making changes to the company's articles of association - which required the three-quarters majority to pass.

Sir Jeremy Morse, the

bank's chairman, said, however, that Lloyds would not consider changing the basic terms. At the bank's own extraordinary meeting, when Lloyds shareholders overwhelmingly supported the deal, Sir Jeremy said: "If it turned out that the proposals can go through on the terms which we have fixed, then we shall be delighted. If not, we will be disappointed but not dismayed. Long before Abbey approached us, we had plans for developing our businesses on our own," he said.

Sir Jeremy said Lloyds was already implementing plans to develop a direct sales force for Black Horse Life, its insurance subsidiary.

Comment, page 27

Official figures contradict CBI

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Retail sales grew sharply during October, according to the Government's first estimate. The rise contradicted the monthly survey by the Confederation of British Industry and surprised markets.

Figures from the Department of Trade and Industry showed a rise of 1.9 per cent in the volume of retail sales last month, seasonally adjusted, compared with a fall of 0.8 per cent the previous month. The index was 141.0 (1980=100) raising the year-on-year increase from 4.9 per cent to 6 per cent.

The DTI said sales had been buoyant in all categories of goods and there was no reason to suppose that October was more erratic than any other month. The postal strike was thought to have had a small effect in depressing the September figures.

The DTI directed attention towards the pattern of the last

three months: The August-October period shows an increase of 1 per cent on the previous three months and 5.6 per cent on the same period a year earlier. This is slightly lower than the year-on-year increase of 5.9 per cent registered in the three months to September. The DTI said this pattern was consistent with the CBI evidence.

● Producer price inflation slowed a little last month as expected. The price index of home sales of manufactured goods rose 0.5 per cent on the previous month to 114.8 (1985=100). Price inflation year on year fell back from 4.9 per cent to 4.7 per cent.

At the input end, prices of materials and fuels bought by manufacturers fell by 0.7 per cent seasonally adjusted. The index at 98.7 was 2.4 per cent above the same period a year earlier compared with 3.3 per cent in September.

Dollar recovers on trade gap hopes

By Our Economics Staff

The dollar recovered some ground yesterday after losing 5 pence last week in the wake of the US election.

It closed in London 1 pence higher at DM1.7460 and ¥123.50. Intervention by the Bank of Japan helped to steady the currency, which was also supported by forecasts of a better trade picture in tomorrow's US trade figures.

Yesterday Mr George Bush, the President-elect, said he would address the problem of the budget and trade deficits "early on in my presidency."

He pledged to continue the economic policies of the Reagan Administration.

The dollar has weakened partly on concern about Mr Bush's reticence during the campaign on his policies for dealing with the deficits.

Sterling closed little changed, despite higher-than-expected retail sales figures. It

was lower against the dollar at \$1.8065 (down 0.85 cents) but steady against the mark at DM3.1553.

The exchange rate index was unchanged at 77.

The dollar was helped by Japan's Finance Ministry which, upset by the country's lack of success in defending the dollar, warned speculators to prepare to face a concerted buying programme by the Bank of Japan and the central banks of the United States and Europe to shore up the sickly dollar.

Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese Finance Minister, said Japan was in constant touch with the monetary authorities of the other Group of Seven nations and that G7 central banks would intervene in currency markets to defend the dollar.

His comments were echoed by Mr Satoshi Sumita, Governor of the Bank of Japan.



Fighting chance: Sir Robert Haslam, British Coal chief, announcing the results yesterday (Photograph: James Morgan)

CEGB plan for supplies from US deals blow to British Coal

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The electricity industry has asked 12 leading American coal companies to tender for the supply to its power stations. The move will be a bitter blow to British Coal, itself a candidate for privatisation.

British Coal yesterday admitted it would be a "near miracle" if it met its target of breaking even this year and gave a warning that further pit closures could not be ruled out.

The group has been hit by higher interest rates, the prospect of higher-than-expected annual wage increases and sterling's strength against the dollar.

It is the strong pound that has forced the Central Electricity Generating Board to look to the US for coal to meet part of its power station needs from next April. China has been ruled out as a source of cheap supplies because of

breakdowns in its coal handling equipment at its export terminals, and Australian coal fields are being hit by serious labour disputes.

The CEGB has asked the 12 US companies to tender for a minimum supply of 250,000 tonnes - with the emphasis on the word minimum - from next April until it is privatised into two separate generating authorities.

British Coal is due to start negotiations with the shadow management of the two generating companies early next year on the coal contracts it will offer when they move into the private sector.

The spectre of existing contracts with US suppliers, which could be extended indefinitely, will now hang over these negotiations.

The coal from the US will be delivered to Rotterdam in the Netherlands, or Antwerp

or Zeebrugge in Belgium, for trans-shipment in smaller cargoes to the power stations on the River Thames. However, the CEGB is also understood to be considering plans to bring the coal direct to Liverpool, if port facilities are available, so that it can be used at its large Fiddlers Ferry power station on Merseyside.

British Coal yesterday announced operating profits for the first six months of £190 million, its best performance in 20 years. However, its annual interest charge of £440 million has risen by £39 million so far this year.

Sir Robert Haslam, the chairman, said he did not feel the Government would be disappointed by the latest reversal. "We still have a fighting chance. This is the toughest industry I have ever been in."

He said the collapse of the

world oil price and the continued low world coal price both helped in international markets by the weak dollar - had forced British Coal to freeze prices for another year after three years of keeping rises below the inflation rate.

He said: "If we had been able to increase prices in line with inflation, as other industries have been able to do, we would be heading for an operating profit of £1 billion."

"However, we have to contend with the price freeze brought about by the relentless competition for markets, higher interest rates and higher wage settlements than planned, reflecting rising inflation. All this will impose additional costs on the corporation of at least £75 million in the remaining months of this year, thus adding to the already tough target of breaking even."

Guinness loses appeal on Panel ruling

By Colin Narborough

It looked increasingly likely last night that Guinness will have to pay up to £100 million compensation to former shareholders in Distillers Company Ltd, the Scottish whisky group, after its appeal to the House of Lords for a judicial review of a Takeover Panel ruling was rejected.

A potentially more damaging effect of the Lords decision could be that it will encourage Mr Alastair Grant, chairman

of Argyll, the supermarket group which lost the controversial battle for control of Distillers, to initiate legal action against Guinness.

Argyll is believed to have considered seeking as much as £750 million in compensation.

A Guinness spokesman said that the company had heard "absolutely nothing" from Argyll.

The Panel ruled in January that Guinness had broken the City Code during its £2.7

billion takeover of Distillers in 1986. After a fierce fight with Mr James Gulliver, the former Argyll chairman, who was strongly backed by the Scottish financial and political lobby, Guinness won the day under Mr Ernest Saunders, its former chairman and chief executive.

The Lords decision upheld a High Court ruling from March that supported the Takeover Panel's finding that Guinness had infringed City rules by making a secret

agreement with Bank Leu of Switzerland during the Distillers' battle.

The Panel said that under the deal, a Bank Leu subsidiary purchased £76 million worth of Distillers shares in concert with Guinness.

A Guinness spokesman said the company could still turn to the Panel's Appeals Committee after the Lords ruling, and was free to open discussions with the regulatory body, now that all the legal channels had been exhausted.



EVERY DAY, IT IS.
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Duggan dismissed as chief executive after boardroom row

Clegg back in charge of Mountleigh

By Our City Staff

Mountleigh, the property group which once planned to take over the Storehouse retail chain, was in turmoil last night after a boardroom row ended in the dismissal of Mr John Duggan, the chief executive. He could collect a golden handshake reputed to be in the region of £500,000.

During a day when the company was the subject of intense takeover speculation, it confirmed that it may sell its £350 million European property portfolio. Mountleigh said that at the board's request Mr Duggan - who took on the job last month - had resigned as chief executive.

Mr Tony Clegg, the founder and driving force behind Mountleigh, who handed the job over to Duggan because

of illness, is taking over again. Sir Ian MacGregor, a non-executive member of the board and the former British Coal chief, steps up as deputy chairman.

Mr Clegg said: "We came to the conclusion that the chemistry was not working with Mr Duggan and the sooner we resolved the position the better. We had thought he was the right man for the job but things just did not work out."

"I haven't taken over as an interim move. I am back in the job to stay."

Mountleigh confirmed that it had received an approach from Tranwood, Mr Peter Earl's corporate finance company, acting for the Galerias Consortium, which may lead to an offer for the group's European activities. The jewel is the Spanish Galerias Preciados department store chain. Earlier, the

Galerias Consortium had announced it had bought a 5 per cent block of shares at 200p each from an investment group controlled by Mr Clegg and including several other Mountleigh directors to lift its stake in Mountleigh to 13.37 per cent.

Mr Duggan, who had been a member of the investment group, apparently had no "prior knowledge" of the sale of the shares to the Galerias Consortium.

According to informed sources, relations between Mr Duggan, who joined Mountleigh last February after the takeover of his own Phoenix property company, and Mr Clegg had grown increasingly difficult. Mountleigh this month abandoned merger talks with Wembley, the company which owns Wembley Stadium. There is speculation that these could now be on again.

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TEMPUS

Healthcare gives BOC profit a tonic

Cannon Street Investments has agreed to acquire **Nikkai Imports**, a Leeds, West Yorkshire, importer of consumer electronic equipment. **Cannon Street** will pay **£3.7 million**, all but **£1 million** in cash, if **Nikkai** makes **£1-million** pretax profit in the year to end-December. There are further profit-related payments up to **£8.4 million** over three years.

However, the problem of integrating and computerizing its US company, Glaxo Home Health Care, has clearly taken much longer – and cost much more – than planned. Replacement of clerical staff with electronic equipment has been slow, and this in turn has hindered the progress of financial servicing of patients, many of whom are elderly with respiratory difficulties helped by inhaling BOC's bottled oxygen. BOC promises to have these problems sorted out this year.

Across the group, more than £580 million was invested in

With a British tax charge of about 10 per cent – and likely to remain at that level due to significant unrelieved Advance Corporation Tax on dividends – the tax charge next year is likely to rise slightly to 29 per cent.

Analysts expect pretax profits to advance more slowly this year, by 8 per cent to £330 million, giving a prospective multiple of 8.8. Given the likelihood of an economic slowdown in the US, the rating looks about right, and investors can take some comfort too from the 5.3 per cent yield.

new plant and equipment and acquisitions last year, worsening the debt/equity ratio to 60 per cent. Borrowings have jumped £157 million to £607 million while £150 million of goodwill was written off shareholders' funds.

This year, several large projects are scheduled for completion and capital spend-

Marshalls

Halifax

Opportunities for investing in well-run specialized building materials companies are fast running out as the smaller niche players are swallowed by

The Financial Times, part of the Pearson group, has taken another step in its expansion in business publishing on the continent by moving into Spain. Pearson has agreed to pay £5.5 million cash to buy 35 per cent of Area Editorial, which publishes *Expansion*, claimed to be Spain's biggest selling financial newspaper. *Expansion* has a daily sale of about 25,000 copies.

Five Oaks Investments, the property group, reports an increase in pre-tax profits from £2.18 million to £3.04 million for the year to end-June. Turnover rose from £4.9 million to £11.57 million. In September, the company acquired a £28.6 million property portfolio, comprising retail and office properties, mainly in South-east England and the Midlands. Earnings per share rose from 7.14p to 8.73p on a fully diluted basis. The ordinary dividend of 1.25p was paid as a special dividend in October to avoid confusion as a result of a different dividend entitlement of newly-issued shares.

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Rising interest rates over the period hindered profits, and the company, in common with most other operators,


However, Cater's offshoot banking, Lloyd's broking and financial futures operations seemed all produced profits that

Mr James Barclay, chairman of Cater, said that the acquisition was part of the group's policy of diversifying its activities, to ensure the protection and raising of edged stock.

McLeod Russell Holdings, the

Firms' prosperity 'shapes pay rates'

By Roland Rudd, Employment Affairs Reporter



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Carless dismisses Kelt bid as 'undervaluing its assets'

By Carol Ferguson

Carless, the independent oil company at the receiving end of a hostile £206 million bid from Kelt Energy, has dismissed the bid as "seriously undervaluing" its assets and having "all the worst features of a highly leveraged bid."

As part of its defence — the formal document was posted to shareholders yesterday — Carless commissioned an independent assessment of its upstream assets which valued them at £160 million. "The Kelt offer leaves, for the rest of Carless, only £46 million," the company said. "On this basis,

the Kelt cash offer at £206 million seriously undervalues Carless."

It argues that to repay the £191 million of loans borrowed to finance the deal, Kelt will not only need to sell the downstream assets but it will also need to dismember the upstream assets.

Mr George Magan, of J O Hambro Magan, the Carless adviser, said: "The sale of the downstream assets is likely to be a forced sale, and could give rise to capital gains tax liabilities. Because of Kelt's borrowings, there will be a huge interest bill, but after the sale, there will be no earnings

per share to service it. And some of the disposal proceeds will need to be used to repay Carless's own £33 million of net debts."

He pointed out also that any disposal of Carless's assets of more than £5 million, or any security given on the assets will trigger a default of Carless's own loans.

"What is at stake is a total disruption of the group on a wild speculative venture which is very precariously financed," he said.

Carless also attacks Kelt's record, pointing out that the company, which is 75 per cent owned by M Hubert Perrodo,

made substantial losses in 1986 and 1987 and has not paid a dividend since 1985.

"Kelt has been formed through a series of complex transactions including the sale of assets from one Perrodo-controlled company to another, with substantial upward revaluations of oil and gas properties as the basis for transfer prices," Carless said.

Mr Alasdair Locke, Kelt's deputy chairman, said last night that there was nothing new in the document that had not been trailed before: "It's a pretty inept document, and reflects the ability of the Carless management."

Clearance for London Life action

By Maria Scott

Actions by the management of London Life at its stormy extraordinary general meeting at the Barbican last month were cleared in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Julian Byng, a London Life policyholder, alleged that Mr Oliver Dawson, the London Life president, should not have adjourned the meeting without a vote and that the vote taken at a second meeting that day was therefore invalid.

The vote contributed to an 85 per cent majority in favour of London Life's plan to merge with Australian Mutual Provident, the Australian mutual insurer.

Mr Justice Vinelott ruled the London Life management acted correctly and that the second meeting was valid. The decision followed a four-and-a-half day hearing.

Mr Richard Parry, of Farrer & Co, Mr Byng's solicitor, said that it was possible Mr Byng would appeal.

Mr Andrew Wakefield, deputy managing director of London Life, said: "We and the policyholders who voted in favour are relieved."

Unless Mr Byng appeals, attention will now be focused on the High Court hearing, due for December 12, which is necessary before the merger can go ahead. Normally, this hearing would be a formality. But the hearing may be held by disgruntled policyholders as a last-ditch attempt to get the plan called off.



Bearing fruit: Richard Giordano said investment paid off (Photograph: Stephen Markeson)

BOC on target with £301m

By Our City Staff

Pre-tax profits at BOC rose by 15 per cent to £301.5 million last year, exactly in line with analysts' forecasts. Turnover was up 9 per cent to £2.6 billion.

However, earnings per share grew faster — up by 22 per cent to 44.4p — due to a lower tax charge.

The mainstream gases and related products business accounted for 66 per cent of profits, contributing £225 million at the operating level, a 15 per cent improvement on the previous year.

Mr Richard Giordano, the

group's chairman, said that substantial investment in the last half-dozen years had paid off. "In 1988, every market had high demand, and we had the capacity to meet it."

In healthcare, the anaesthesia pharmaceutical business and the anaesthetic equipment and patient monitoring systems did well.

However, Glasrock Home Health Care, which supplies hospital oxygen to patients, continued to make losses.

Mr Giordano said the problems were due to a lack of confidence that installing the

computer systems nationwide was the right way forward.

During the year, BOC spent £280 million on acquisitions, including two health care businesses.

The dividend for 1989 was declared in accordance with BOC's changed dividend policy which was announced in October. BOC will pay a net 16.6p in 1989, in two equal instalments. The first instalment will be paid in February 1989, and the second in August, 1989. Shareholders may take all or part in shares.

Times, page 26

Housing merger at Alfred McAlpine

By Martin Waller

Alfred McAlpine, the construction group, is merging its housebuilding operations with the privately-owned Canberra Group to create the country's 12th biggest housebuilder, producing 2,000 homes a year and to be listed on the stock market in time.

McAlpine announced talks which could have led to the outright purchase of Canberra in August, at a reported price of £50 million to £60 million.

In the event it has structured a more complex deal which will give it 60 per cent of the merged company, and the existing Canberra management, led by the chairman, Mr Eric Grove, the chairman.

A flotation could come once the market's rating of housebuilders, and of McAlpine itself, had improved, and after the business showed a favourable record, said its chairman, Mr Bobby McAlpine.

Market sources suggest the merged operation would currently command a price tag of upwards of £100 million.

McAlpine intends to keep a majority shareholding after the flotation. It is putting new money into the venture but converting £27 million of inter-company loans owed by the housebuilding arm into new equity in the venture.

£253m bid rejection by Bejam

By Wolfgang Münchau

Bejam ended two weeks of silence yesterday with a defence document firmly rejecting the £253 million takeover bid by Iceland Frozen Foods.

The market, which had hoped that the silence might denote the possibility of an agreement, marked Bejam shares 2p lower at 199p.

A Bejam spokesman said no talks were held with Iceland — as suggested — nor was a white knight being sought.

Mr John Apthorpe, Bejam's non-executive chairman, has pledged his 30 per cent controlled stake against the offer.

In the document, Bejam pointed out that it achieved higher margins, and higher sales and profits per sq ft.

Mr Malcolm Walker, chairman and chief executive of Iceland, said: "Mr Apthorpe himself approached Iceland in May 1987, seeking a merger of the two companies. The talks collapsed not on the grounds of future strategy but rather the nervousness of Bejam's management as to their future

COMMENT Abbey wedding needs a new settlement

What next for Abbey Life? The company and its advisers have badly miscalculated. As expected, its scheme to merge with Lloyds Bank was thrown out by shareholders, led by the big institutions. Yet it was a miscalculation of tactics rather than strategy.

Abbey has, after all, won enough support from shareholders to argue convincingly for a renegotiation. If it had not pinned the whole enterprise on gaining a 75 per cent vote in favour of a couple of extra resolutions, rather than 50 per cent for the simple merger proposal, the vote would have been carried handsomely.

Since both sides insist that a change to the basic terms of the deal is out of the question, a change in tactics is the obvious alternative. Reintroducing the deal in a way that requires only a 50 per cent majority would, on the face of it, be enough. This, among other things, would require some fancy footwork to keep Lloyds Bowmaker off Abbey's balance sheet for the time being, but it might still be achieved.

Such manoeuvring could cause big trouble, however. Some 48 per cent of shares were not voted yesterday, with some significant abstentions. Mercury Asset Management, which holds 9 per cent and is not in favour of the deal, was almost certainly one. If such institutions felt that the deal was being pushed through the back door, they would probably weigh in with damaging effect.

King Coal's uneasy crown

Just when the news over British Coal's performance is getting better — as yesterday's first-half figures showed with the best financial results for 20 years — there comes a reminder from the Central Electricity Generating Board how life for our coal-getters is going to get much tougher.

The CEGB has asked a dozen US companies for tenders to supply coal from next spring until the board is privatised and turned into "Big G" and "Little G." The tonnage is not high, involving probably not much more than a quarter of a million tonnes, but it demonstrates how British Coal is going to face harsher winds of competition as it moves towards its own eventual privatisation.

What has turned the CEGB's eyes over the Atlantic is largely sterling's strength against the dollar although other potential overseas suppliers have problems. Australia's coal industry has been dogged with labour disputes and China shows no sign of sorting out its endemic handling problems.

But if the CEGB gets US contracts in place it is bound to add a fresh cutting edge to negotiations due to start early in the new year between the shadow

managements of the two Gs and British Coal.

Inevitably, collapsed oil prices are also making it harder for British Coal to sustain that first-half performance of a £190 million operating profit. As Sir Robert Haslam, the British Coal chairman, pointed out, if British Coal's prices could have been increased in line with inflation it might have been moving towards an operating profit of £1 billion rather than the targeted £500 million.

Hitting £500 million would allow it to break even after taking account of interest charges (up because of interest rates) and more restructuring costs.

Break-even is clearly a tough enough target any way and Sir Robert admits it is now an almost impossible one although he had brave words about there still being a fighting chance of getting there provided there were no big industrial disputes.

That may seem a big proviso given the industry's history, unresolved problems like six-day working for Margam and inevitable questions over the Scargill factor. But behind the first-half improvement was mainly another productivity rise of 15 per cent. It means productivity since the 1984 strike has gone up 75 per cent.

De Savary to buy airport for £50m

By Cliff Feltham

Southampton Airport is being acquired by Mr Peter de Savary's Highland Partners in a £50 million deal.

Mr De Savary beat rival bidders for the 363-acre site which has direct access to the M27 motorway and to Southampton Parkway British Rail station. He will find property partners to develop the land not needed by the airport.

Highland is buying the airport from Findhelp for a nominal sum of £2 but has agreed to take on its liabilities, estimated at £50 million. This will be financed by a short-term loan.

The airport is run by Airports UK, part of BAA, which

has arrangements to lease the land, buildings and equipment from Findhelp until 1991.

Mr de Savary said: "We regard this acquisition as providing strategic opportunities for Highland to develop its land, transport and distribution operations. Under the Appledore name, our reputation is already well established overseas."

The Airport is mainly used for private flights and scheduled services to the Channel Islands but there is scope for business travel and freight.

Highland, the main investment vehicle of Mr de Savary has interests in ports and harbours in 16 countries.

BAA plans £101m hotels investment

By Our City Staff

BAA, the privatised British airports group, is ploughing £101 million into its expansion in the hotel business. The group is going it alone, planning to run the hotels itself after a deal with Ramada, the US chain, fell through.

BAA yesterday unveiled plans for a 400-room, four-star hotel at Heathrow, costing £41 million, and a £13 million 250-room hotel at Stansted. This follows the start of work on a £47 million four-star hotel at Gatwick.

BAA Hotels, a subsidiary, will manage and run the three hotels, which will create about 750 jobs. BAA has not given up the idea of inviting a

partner to manage the hotels. "We are enthusiastic about expanding in the hotel sector and we are considering all opportunities which might arise in the future," said a spokesman.

The Heathrow hotel — adjacent to terminal four — is expected to open in 1991 and will be aimed mainly at business travellers. The Stansted hotel has been designed primarily for the leisure market.

Mr Michael Brooker, managing director of BAA Hotels, said: "These hotels will be among the most exciting new developments on the British hotel scene for decades."

Chill wind blows in from ANZ

The merger between ANZ's merchant bank and its London broker, McCaughan Dyson Capel Cure, which is still having its legal it's dotted and it's crossed, has produced its first crop of redundancies. Seventeen capital markets staff, including five back office employees, were made redundant last Friday although talks are going on with five of them to see whether they can be re-employed elsewhere in the group. The two most senior departees are David Skinner, on the gilt side, and John Rathbone who looked after the capital markets operation for ANZ Merchant Bank. Other staff who have gone worked in treasury, sales and distribution. Although the legal niceties are still incomplete, the merger is effective and the overlapping areas now visible according to Geoff Cunningham, ANZ's capital markets head, who arrived in London from Australia last June. He said that his division should end up with a staff of about 55 — but he was not to be drawn on whether the newly-integrated group will be cutting back on any other jobs.

Cold comfort

Who said times had changed? Conscious of a nationwide campaign to save energy, Martin Spring, editor of a private personal finance newsletter, advises his subscribers: "Ser-

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Ground breaking slip

Only one snag marred the pleasure of Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board executives as they announced their biggest-ever deal yesterday — an £18-million video recorder factory on a greenfield site for Daewoo of South Korea. As Tom King, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and the Daewoo Electronics president — almost predictably, a Mr Kim — were

about to come on site to cut the first sods, a Korean employee pointed to the bilingual welcome hoarding, erected as a photographic backdrop. One line, in Korean, saying "ground breaking" was upside down, he claimed. Fortunately, the offending letters were in Fablon rather than paint and were quickly removed before the dignitaries arrived for the ceremony.

wants have a bad habit of heating the kitchen in winter by switching on the oven and leaving the oven door wide open. A very expensive habit. If you do that for several hours a day, it can cost you £25 a month or more. So make sure it doesn't happen in your home!"

Testing times

Cleveland Bridge, which is based in Darlington, will have to be grateful for small mercies. While the engineers anxiously wait to hear whether it has won the contract to build a new bridge over the Bosphorus, it can get on with its latest job — to erect a thermometer, 15 metres high, at the side of the main London-to-Edinburgh line in Darlington. The council has just decided to go ahead with a new version of the town's unusual landmark at a cost of £19,000. Sadly how-

ever, for the company, the council has turned down the company's request to incorporate a Cleveland Bridge logo on the structure — there would be "insufficient room." Perhaps it also has something to do with the council's decision to fix its own four-metre-long sign saying: "Darlington — a better place for business and a better place to stay."

● The Securities and Investments Commission may have succeeded in condensing a model client agreement letter down to three and a half sides of A4 from the monstrous wedges produced by most brokers and fund managers. But some money managers have managed to go even better. The winner of a SIB competition (no prizes) managed to say it all in two pages. But if anyone can better the feat, send your answers to the SIB at 3 Royal Exchange Buildings, London EC3V 3NL — not to me.

Silent angel

Robin Leigh-Pemberton's enforced distancing from making financial investments while he is Governor of the Bank of England has rebounded on one of his brothers, Nigel Douglas. An opera singer who has spent much of his career in the German-speaking countries Douglas — who uses his more easily-pronounceable Christian names for a stage name — is managing director of West End Angels. This is a new BES scheme, designed to bring provincial and repertory productions of operas and musicals to the West End for a longer run. The first production will be Noel Coward's *Bitter Sweet*, produced by New Sadler's Wells Opera Company, which should open next year in its first West End production since 1929. The revival moved from Plymouth to Sadler's Wells last February. Lord (Jack) Bruce-Gardyne is chairman of the company. Michael Reed of the Really Useful Group and Joe Karavitiotis of the NSWCO are also joining the board. Douglas tells me that although the Governor and his wife, Rosemary, are sufficiently fond of Viennese operas to have spent a fortune rushing round Europe over the past decades to see his performances, Robin's present post precludes him from backing his younger brother. Perhaps the third Leigh-Pemberton sibling, Jeremy, managing director of Whatman Reeve Angel, the paper group, will take advantage of the opportunity?

Rosemary Unsworth

DIAMOND SERVICE

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BRITISH MIDLAND

STOCK MARKET

Index falls below the 1,800 level

Share prices fell through the crucial 1,800 level for the first time in almost two months yesterday, making a nervous start to the two-week account.

Worries about the dollar following its steep decline had investors on the run from the market. Most of them are now anxiously awaiting tomorrow's US trade figures with the experts looking for a \$1 billion (£563 billion) improvement on last month's deficit of \$10.6 billion (£5.96 billion). Anything less, it is feared, could prompt another run on prices in both London and New York. But, despite the dollar's weakness, the gold price has held steady which, dealers say, is encouraging.

One leading broker commented: "If there was any fundamental change in the dollar, you could expect gold to go sharply higher."

No quarter was asked and no quarter given by market-makers as trading after the weekend got under way.

Their red pens were out in force as they tried to pre-empt any likely selling by marking prices sharply lower after claims that the market could suffer another shakeout similar to Black Monday.

Double-figure losses were seen in most blue chips, but the expected welter of selling failed to materialize and prices continued to rally throughout the day. An early

fall of 26 points in the FT-SE 100 index was later reduced to just 8.4 at 1,794.3. The narrower FT index of top 30 shares closed 8.7 lower at 1,452.5, having been 13.8 lower at its worst.

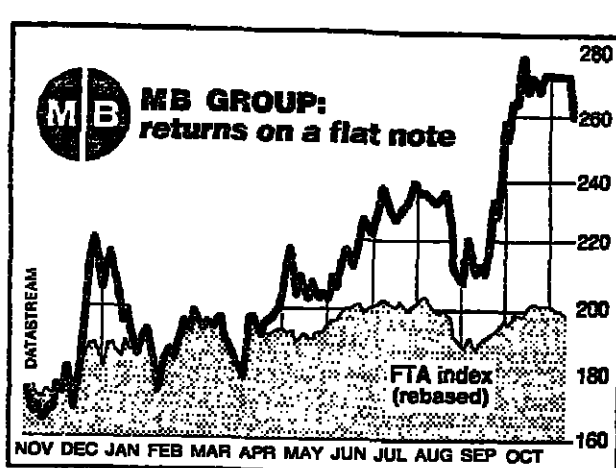
This was despite another nervous start to trading on Wall Street where the Dow Jones industrial average suffered a 15-point fall at about midday. It later recovered following some reassuring comments about the US economy from Washington.

Dealers in London are hoping that the US trade figures will live up to expectations, providing support for a rally later in the week. They have been heartened by the lack of selling pressure and believe

MAI, the financial services group, is closing in on Addison Consultancy, the advertising and public relations group, exchanged hands at 39p. Whispers suggest that MAI is keen to get its hands on Addison's market research business and is ready to launch a cash offer of 40p a share.

there is scope for the London market to break free from New York's grip.

But the latest domestic retail sales served to cast doubt initially on suggestions that higher interest rates have succeeded in slowing down the



consumer boom. They showed a rise of 1.9 per cent in October compared with a decline of 0.8 per cent in the previous month.

But the retail sector, which has badly underperformed the rest of the market this year, was unmoved with prices clawing back losses to close near overnight levels. Woolworth was a case in point, recovering a 3p fall to finish 2p up at 245p, helped by the appearance of a large buyer. By the close, almost 1.5 million shares had been traded.

Barton Group, the high street retailer headed by Sir Ralph Halpern, recovered from an initial dull level of 193p to finish 1p higher at 197p.

The group's annual results are expected on Thursday and

analysts are forecasting pre-tax profits of about £212 million compared with £183.4 million last time.

With the recent disappointing figures from Marks and Spencer and Storehouse still fresh in their minds and a dull Christmas in prospect, store followers are obviously looking to the super-fit Sir Ralph to provide the sector with some seasonal cheer.

Government securities were the one bright spot, managing to hold on to gains of up to £¼ at the longer end.

The big dollar-earners suffered another mark-down with ICI dipping below the £10.00 level before rallying to finish 12p lower at £10.00 exactly, while Glaxo finished at £10.30 in ex-dividend form. Jaguar, which exports more than one-

third of its vehicles to the US, failed to hold on to an early lead following the resumption of normal working, finishing 3p lower at 276p.

Apollo Watch Products, the group which has the British watch franchise for "Roger Rabbit" featured in the film *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*, staged a satisfactory debut on the Unlisted Securities Market.

The shares, placed at 20p each by Jacobson Townsley, the broker, made steady progress and closed with a 4p premium at 24p.

Deals in MB Group (which used to be known as Metal Box) resumed with the sellers immediately gaining the upper hand. From the

Britannia Security has become one of Britain's top three with its acquisition of Shield from Honeywell. Pasmore Gordon, the broker, says it will increase its customer base by 46 per cent and dilute earnings - set to grow by 22 per cent to 17.5p in 1989 - by a mere 2 per cent.

suspension level of 273p, the shares dropped to 259p before recovering to 267p. They later weakened afresh to close at 260p on a turnover of more than 8 million.

Last week, the European Commission began an informal investigation under the

community's competition rules into the proposed merger between MB and Carnaud, the Anglo-French packaging company.

The recovery to 267p was accompanied by vague talk that Mr John Elliott's Elders DXL, the Australian group which has had its bid for Scottish & Newcastle Breweries referred to the Monopolies Commission, was trying to add to its 5.1 per cent stake in MB.

Dealers in Mountleigh, the property group, had a confusing time as the shares raced up to 189p on one stage, before closing 10p higher at 184p.

Early buying was fuelled by the news that a consortium led by SASEA, the Geneva group, had increased its stake in the property group to 13.37 per cent from 7.6 per cent and made a formal approach to the company to buy Mountleigh International, which owns Galerías Preciados, the Spanish store.

Confusion was increased by reports that Mr John Duggan, who recently took over the reins from Mr Tony Clegg as Mountleigh's chief executive, had resigned after a boardroom row and that Mr Clegg had reopened merger negotiations with Wembley, the leisure group which owns Wembley Stadium.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

NEW YORK

Blue chips slip back in opening dealings

(Reuters) - Shares turned mixed in early trading yesterday with declining issues taking a small lead from rising ones.

Blue chips remained higher, but were pulling back from early gains. Brokers said that a falling bond market overcame investors' interest in a rising

dollar after a steep decline in the dollar last week.

The Dow Jones industrial average was 6 points higher at 2,073.21 after reaching 2,080.00, an area of light resistance. Trading was slow ahead of the US trade deficit report tomorrow.

SYDNEY

Prices hit by firmer dollar

(Reuters) - The market recorded its largest one-day fall for almost three months as the firmer Australian dollar gave overseas investors added incentive to sell. At the close of floor trading the All-Ordinaries Index was down 31.8 points to 1,526.4. The All-Industrials Index plunged 50.9 to 2,512.3 and the All-Resources 17.4 to 786.4.

FRANKFURT

Shares up on foreign buying

(Reuters) - Leading shares closed fractionally off the day's highs in quiet trading, boosted by foreign investors buying in response to a rebound in the dollar, dealers said. But dealers were reluctant to predict lasting gains points to 1,526.4. The All-Industrials Index plunged 50.9 to 2,512.3 and the All-Resources 17.4 to 786.4.

TOKYO

Market edges to peak

(Reuters) - Prices rose slightly to a record close in moderate trading yesterday as continued buying of financial shares buoyed the index despite other concerns, brokers said.

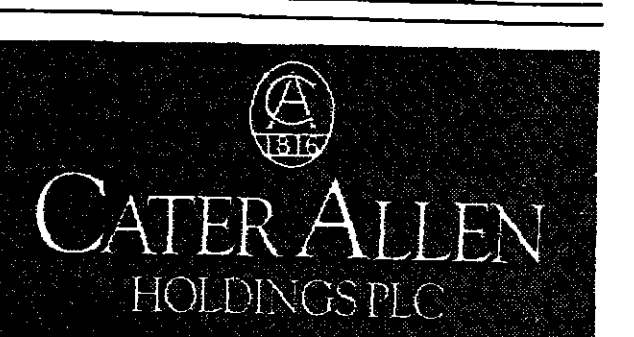
The Nikkei index climbed 31.33 points, or 0.11 per cent, to a record closing 25,520.90. The previous record close and record traded high were both reached on Friday.

WALL STREET

	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 11	Nov 10		
AMR Co	48 1/2	49	Fedders	10 1/2	10 1/2	Pennwalt	72 1/2	73
ASA	38 1/2	39 1/2	Per Chicago	31 1/2	32 1/2	PepsiCo	39 1/2	40 1/2
Aetna Life	47 1/2	47 1/2	Per Ind Ship	47 1/2	47 1/2	Pfizer	50 1/2	50 1/2
Allied Signal	30 1/2	30 1/2	Per Penn C	11 1/2	12 1/2	Pharmacia	45 1/2	46 1/2
Alle Chem	1 1/2	1 1/2	FT Washw	37 1/2	37 1/2	Philo Mor	91 1/2	92 1/2
Alcoa	51 1/2	52 1/2	Food Mart	47 1/2	47 1/2	Philo Per	18 1/2	19 1/2
Ames Inc	22 1/2	22 1/2	GAF Co	47 1/2	47 1/2	Polaroid	58 1/2	59 1/2
AMR Hess	28 1/2	29 1/2	GTE Co	43 1/2	44 1/2	Rockwell	36 1/2	37 1/2
Am Brands	39 1/2	40 1/2	Gen Co	18 1/2	19 1/2	Sealed Air	80	81
Am Cymd	45 1/2	47 1/2	Gen Dynam	51 1/2	52 1/2	Prod Gble	80	81
Am Ede Pwr	26 1/2	27 1/2	Gen Electric	44 1/2	45 1/2	Pub S E G	24 1/2	25 1/2
Ames	25 1/2	26 1/2	Gen Ind	29 1/2	30 1/2	R Natio	32 1/2	33 1/2
Am Family	13 1/2	14 1/2	Gen Mfg	50 1/2	51 1/2	Raychem	68	69
Am Hous	40 1/2	41 1/2	Gen Motors	50 1/2	51 1/2	Rydell Mfg	51 1/2	52 1/2
Am Int Grp	62 1/2	64 1/2	Gen Pub	30 1/2	31 1/2	Rockwell Int	20 1/2	21 1/2
Am Telph	28 1/2	29 1/2	Genaco	5	6	Royal Dutch	11 1/2	12 1/2
Amoco Co	70 1/2	71 1/2	Gen Pac	34 1/2	34 1/2	SFE Sopac	17 1/2	17 1/2
Amstar B	30 1/2	31 1/2	Goodyear	51 1/2	52 1/2	SFE Sopac	17 1/2	18 1/2
Arch Dan	19 1/2	20 1/2	Gould	n/a	n/a	Schlumberger	33 1/2	34 1/2
Arco Steel	9 1/2	10 1/2	Goodyear	48 1/2	49 1/2	Scott Paper	37 1/2	38 1/2
Asarco Inc	26 1/2	27 1/2	Graeco Co	28 1/2	29 1/2	Sealed Air	80	81
Ashtand Co	33 1/2	34 1/2	Graynd	22 1/2	23 1/2	Seers Robb	40 1/2	41 1/2
At Rchid	17 1/2	18 1/2	Griffin	20 1/2	21 1/2	Seer Pac	32 1/2	33 1/2
Avon Prod	21 1/2	22 1/2	Griffin	20 1/2	21 1/2	Shell Trans	68 1/2	69 1/2
Bk Bacon	22 1/2	23 1/2	Guar Westm	38 1/2	39 1/2	Smith Beck	42 1/2	43 1/2
Bank NY	36 1/2	37 1/2	Gu Westm	38 1/2	39 1/2	Sony Co	40	40
Bankamer	17 1/2	18 1/2	Hals	43 1/2	44 1/2	SW Bell	40	41
Bent Tel NY	37 1/2	38 1/2	Hawkes Pk	42 1/2	43 1/2	Squibb	87 1/2	88 1/2
Baxter	16 1/2	17 1/2	Hawkes Pk	42 1/2	43 1/2	Sun Comp	63 1/2	64 1/2
Beth Steel	20 1/2	21 1/2	Honeywell	60 1/2	61 1/2	TDK	63 1/2	64 1/2
Boise Cas	61 1/2	62 1/2	IC Ind	33 1/2	34 1/2	Teledyne	40 1/2	41 1/2
Borden	40 1/2	41 1/2	ITT Co	54 1/2	55 1/2	Tenneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Bridg Mgr	55 1/2	56 1/2	INCO	28 1/2	29 1/2	Tenneco	48	49
Brumack	42 1/2	43 1/2	Int Rand W	53 1/2	54 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Burl Wn	53 1/2	54 1/2	Int Rand W	53 1/2	54 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
CBIS	17 1/2	18 1/2	Int Rand W	53 1/2	54 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Chas Engy	69 1/2	70 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
CMS Engr	29 1/2	30 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
CPC Int	49 1/2	50 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
CSC Co	30 1/2	31 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Comp Supp	30 1/2	31 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Con Pacific	16 1/2	17 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Caterpillar	60 1/2	61 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Centl Grp	30 1/2	31 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Champion	30 1/2	31 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Chase Man	27 1/2	28 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Chem Bank	24 1/2	25 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Chrysler	42 1/2	43 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Citicorp	24 1/2	25 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Clark En	30 1/2	31 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Colgate	44 1/2	45 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Columbia Gas	34 1/2	35 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Com'n En	88 1/2	89 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Comwell Ed	31 1/2	32 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Cons Eds	44 1/2	45 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Consol Np	38 1/2	39 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Cons Data	18 1/2	19 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Corning Gl	65 1/2	66 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Crane	22 1/2	23 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Dana Co	34 1/2	35 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Data Genl	17 1/2	18 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Deere Co	48 1/2	49 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Delta Air	49 1/2	50 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Detroit Ed	16 1/2	17 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Digital Eq	88 1/2	89 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Dynegy	61 1/2	62 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Dow Chem	85 1/2	86 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Dresser Ind	27 1/2	28 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Dupont	30 1/2	31 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Duke Pwr	48 1/2	49 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
East Kodak	44 1/2	45 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Emerson Co	50 1/2	51 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Emerson Ed	29 1/2	30 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Emery Air	4 1/2	5 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Exxon	42 1/2	43 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2
Fairchild	5 1/2	6 1/2	Int Paper	44 1/2	45 1/2	Teneco	30 1/2	31 1/2

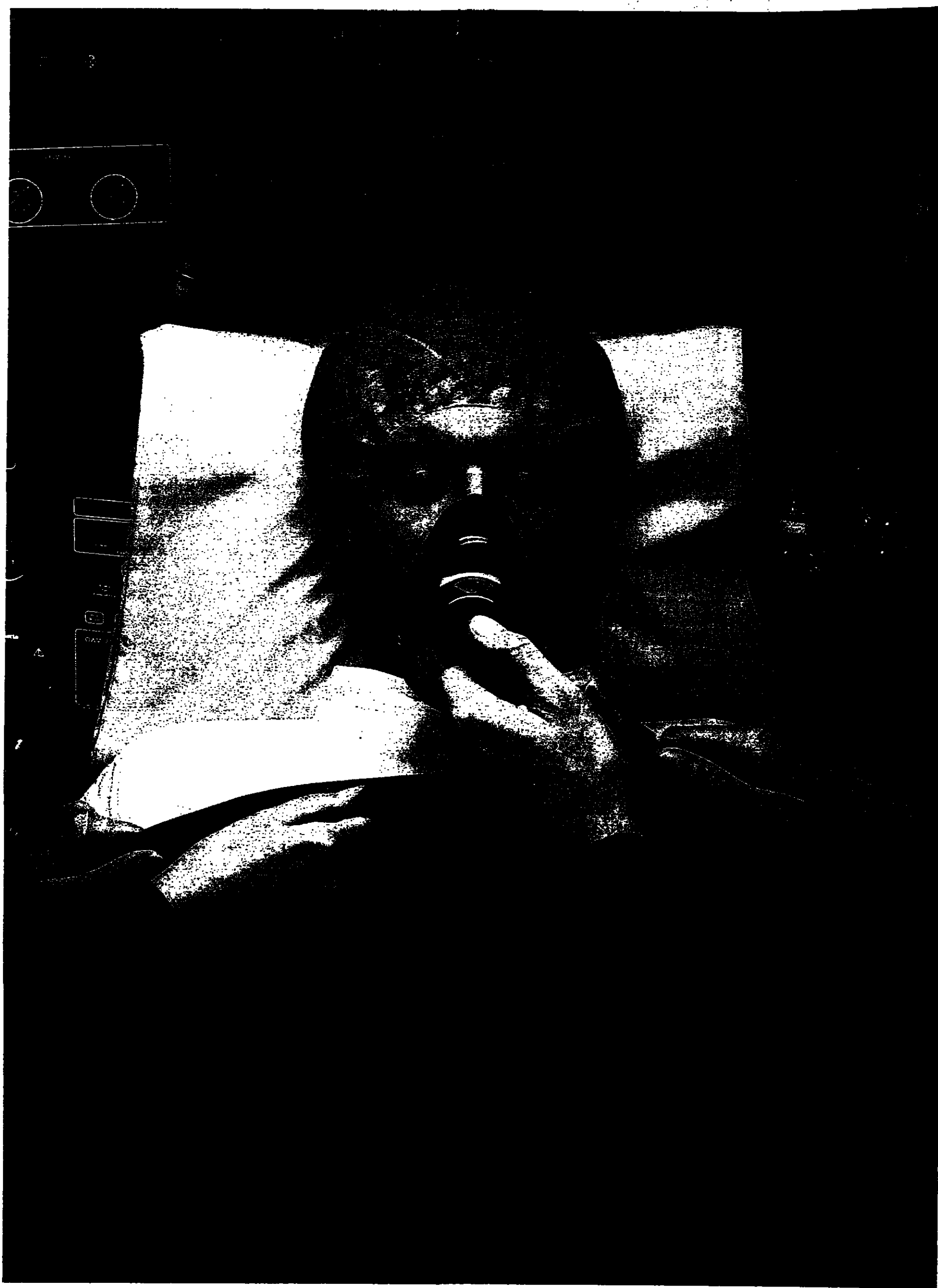
CANADIAN PRICES

Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 11	Nov 10
Agropur	12 1/2	13 1/2	Agropur	12 1/2	13 1/2
Alcan Alum	34 1/2	35 1/2	Alcan Alum	34 1/2	35 1/2
Algonia Stl	n/a	n/a	Algonia Stl	n/a	n/a
Can Pacifi	18 1/2	19 1/2	Can Pacifi	18 1/2	19 1/2
Cominco	20 1/2	21 1/2	Cominco	20 1/2	21 1/2
Con Batrmt	15	16	Con Batrmt	15	16
Hewlett Pk	15 1/2	16 1/2	Hewlett Pk	15 1/2	16 1/2
Hud Bay M	20 1/2	21 1/2	Hud Bay M	20 1/2	21 1/2
Imperial O	47 1/2	48 1/2	Imperial O	47 1/2	48 1/2
Inco	34 1/2	35 1/2	Inco	34 1/2	35 1/2
Royal Traco	16 1/2	17 1/2	Royal Traco	16 1/2	17 1/2
Sagmin	68 1/2	69 1/2	Sagmin	68 1/2	69 1/2
Shelco A	20 1/2	21 1/2	Shelco A	20 1/2	21 1/2
Therman A	27 1/2	28 1/2	Therman A	27 1/2	28 1/2
Varty Cp	1 1/2	2 1/2	Varty Cp	1 1/2	2 1/2
WCT	15 1/2	16 1/2	WCT	15 1/2	16 1/2
Western	35 1/2	36 1/2	Western	35 1/2	36 1/2



Interim Statement for the half year ended 31st October, 1988

Results
The Group has made a small profit in the half year to 31st October, 1988, less than in the equivalent six months last year.
During a time of rising interest rates, the market making operations suffered losses in June and August not fully recovered in the other four months. However, the



MOST CORPORATE ADS ARE A YAWN. THIS ONE IS CERTAINLY NO EXCEPTION.

Sending people to sleep is part of our business. Last year, it contributed over £200 million to The BOC Group's turnover. In the USA, our competitors certainly had something of a rude awakening. Three out of every four general anaesthetics administered there use our pharmaceuticals. Whilst worldwide, we are the leading supplier of anaesthesia delivery systems. Facts, we think you'll agree, that amount to quite an eye opener.

THE BOC GROUP

MORE THAN JUST A BRITISH OXYGEN COMPANY.

The prices in this section refer to Friday's trading.

TECHNOLOGY

Hail the hi-tech potato

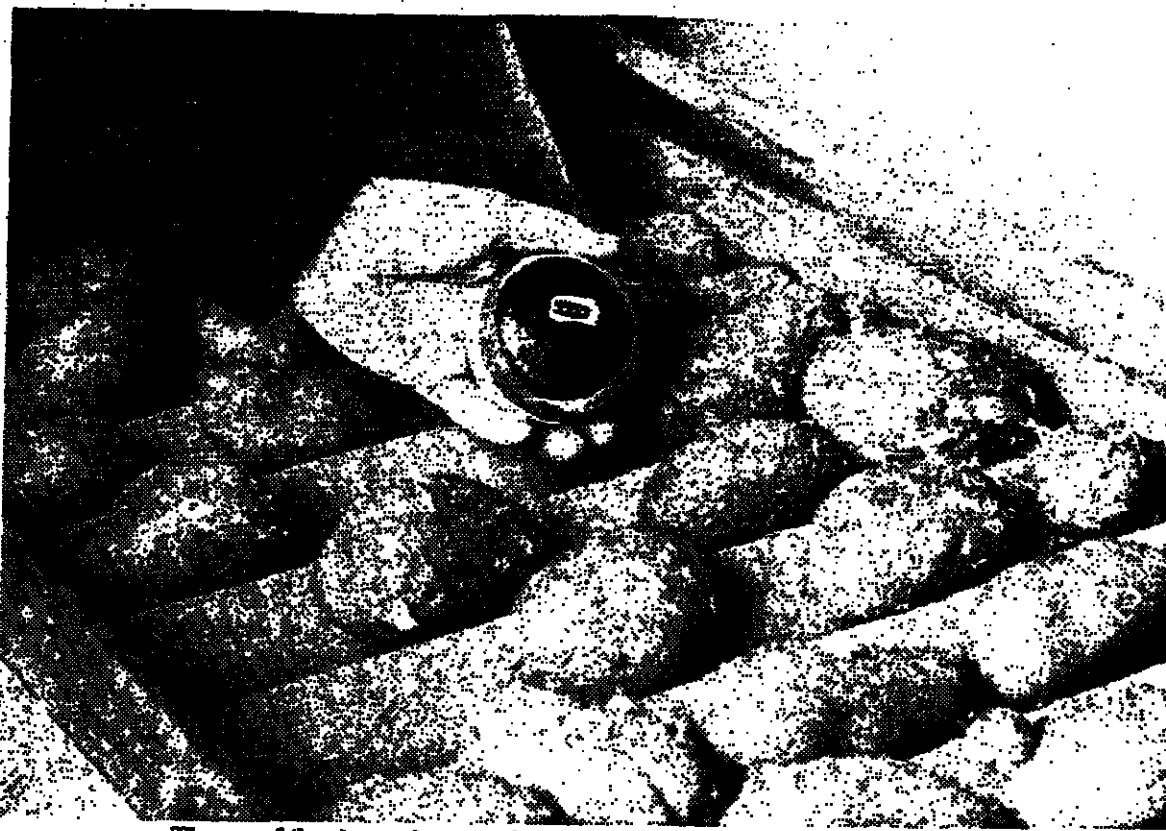
By Nick Nuttall
Britain's biggest staple food, the potato, goes through purgatory to wind up on the nation's dinner plates. From digging, harvesting and grading to washing, bagging, transporting and supermarket shelving, spuds suffer unspeakable levels of bashing, smashing and bruising — with an estimated £60 million of the British annual crop ending up badly damaged.

Pin-pointing the parts within the crop processing and chipping system, where vegetables are mostly damaged has always been based on costly guess work.

But a Scottish electronics engineer, working on a three-year Ministry of Agriculture grant, has developed a cheap simple answer to the farmers, pickers, packers and shopkeepers' nightmare — an electronic potato which, when thrown in with the field crop, monitors and records the exact points, places and time where unwelcome forces ruin vegetables.

Launched commercially a few weeks ago, George Anderson — head of the Scottish Centre of Agricultural Engineering's Instrumentation Department in Edinburgh — claims his device marks a sharp improvement over previous attempts at similar damage monitoring.

Researchers at Michigan State University have developed an electronic potato and apple with the US Department of Agriculture, which is on trial down in the orchard. And both Danish and Dutch scientists have their own version of the "micro chip". But Mr Anderson says they all suffer in one way or another from being devices uncharacteristic of the



The age of the electronic spud: giving back information from the potato patch

produce they aim to mimic or are incapable of registering certain types of bruising forces.

They use radio signals transmitted to a receiver to register places where fruits or vegetables are being harmed, explained Mr Anderson.

In certain parts of machinery these signals can be masked and, as produce

is moving, turning and twisting, there can also be problems getting a reliable signal to the electronics engineer.

What Mr Anderson has done is to create a compact unit which is made to behave like a potato, where instead of data being beamed to a receiver, it is stored internally on a solid state recorder.

This, he explained, can be interrogated by a simple bar magnet, with the time and impact force being displayed on a digital clock set into the fake potato's skin.

However, it is the British electronic vegetable's ability to register and record harmful forces when the device is not only passing down, perhaps, an assembly line, but also when it is stationary and hit by machinery or another potato.

Rival devices have accelerometers at the heart of the units but Mr Anderson has turned to a piezoelectric skin for his monitor.

The accelerometer only records a mean change and doesn't record anything if the potato is stationary and hit.

But with the piezoelectric sensor you get a voltage relative to the impact on the surface, Mr Anderson explained.

Three versions on the crop damage monitor have been built by Mr

Anderson's team — one, the size and "feel" of an apple, the others, two sizes of potato impersonators.

Over the past few weeks — the peak of the potato harvesting season in Britain — farmers, shippers and processors have been offered the electronic vegetable through the government's agriculture and development advisory service near Bedford, and orders have come in from Canada and Sweden.

Hopes are high that by accurately pinpointing places in the system where the vegetables are being badly bruised, cut and smashed, the industry can modify machinery, packing procedures and other processes to reduce losses and improve shop quality.

However, Professor Galen Brown of Michigan State University's agricultural engineering department, said there was more to electronic fruit and veg than apples and potatoes.

He said that working through the US Department of Agriculture, his team was forging joint research projects with academic centres throughout the United States aimed at miniaturizing their device.

And he gave warning: "We are already working on electronic peaches, plums, tomatoes and peppers. Next year we are hoping to make even more electronic fruit."

PERSPECTIVE

Another spring forward in modern printing

The technology components used to produce the latest national newspaper *The Post*, launched last Thursday, are not new, but merely combined in an innovative manner and on a larger scale.

Many organizations use these components in desk-top publishing (DTP) systems that have now been with us for more than three years.

There is a growing awareness of the technologies and an ever-expanding number of users applying them to the production of corporate documents — such as internal reports, directories, business proposals, presentations, newsletters, product literature and annual reports.

However, many of these are based on individual uses — such as training manuals or marketing literature — and consequently the effects on document production practices are confined to small pockets within the organization.

Yet these technologies have the potential to change entirely the way publications are produced and presented to their audience. The change affects all stages of the corporate chain — existing suppliers of print services, external customers and, most importantly, internal skills and responsibilities.

The first opportunity is to combine information — data, graphics and images — from a variety of sources into a single document. Using publishing tools, data networks and emerging interface standards, information no longer needs to be duplicated with the attendant difficulties of knowing which is the latest version.

DTP systems are universally welcomed by their users. Free at last from the monotony of mono-spaced, single-sized characters, purchasers experience the joys of typography and a whole new layout.

Much time is spent playing with fonts, point sizes, leading and lay-outs to produce documents of which the author is inordinately proud. The result is the distribution of some very strange documents that bear the company logo. Design is



Tim Ewbank

glimpses the

future in the

printing revolution

Word-processed documents are today's standard, having superseded typewritten text; but enhanced typography, text and illustrations in a consistent format will soon be commonplace.

Word-processed text with hand-drawn or stick-in images will no longer command attention. At present, using computer-based publishing is a measure of marketing advantage; in a short time, it will be a defensive necessity.

Mass reproduction by litho and gravure will remain largely unaffected. However, the pre-press stage of producing a master document can be substantially modified, largely to our benefit.

The cycle of document creation from type-written script, mark-up, re-key, proof, amend and re-proof — with attendant delays and costs — can be truncated.

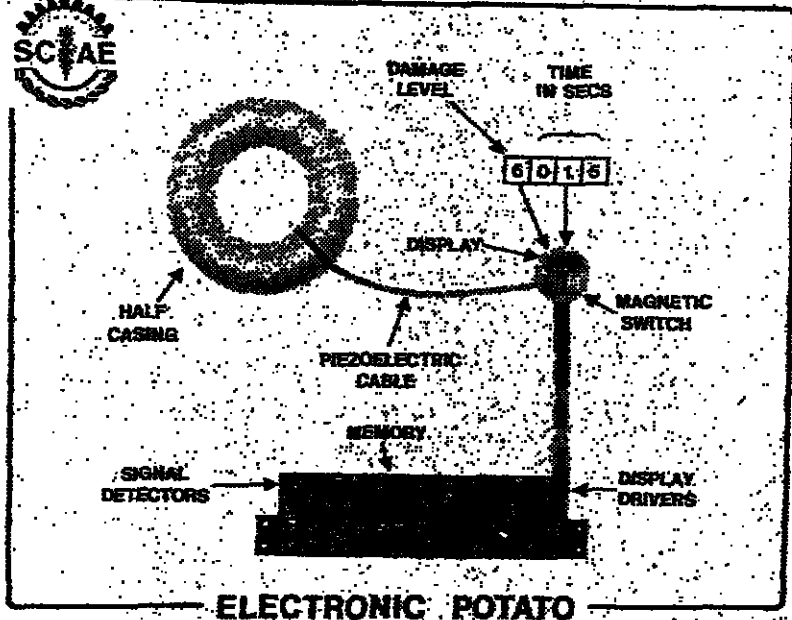
Exact facsimiles of final documents can be generated on personal computers and printed on laser printers. Re-keying and proofing errors can be eliminated and whole operations performed in-house.

Only once the document is finalized need it pass to the type-setters for production of bromides and final art-work. There is no continuing justification for proofing drafts of documents in such an expensive medium.

But I see two contradictory trends. On the one hand, there is a reduction in bromide consumption and a corresponding increase in laser-printer quality papers. On the other, an increasingly sophisticated readership generates an expanded demand for type-set publications.

However, what is certain is that the tide is unstoppable and what seems innovative today will be commonplace tomorrow. The organization that can grasp the full implication of the necessary change, and marshal its resources in a concerted manner, has the opportunity of real gains in efficiency and market differentiation.

The author is a management consultant with Peat, Marwick McLintock



Hot on the trail of the virus maverick

From Michael Morris in Washington



Robert Morris Jr. The challenge of finding "backdoors"

No drama is complete without a moment of foreshadowing — something Robert Morris, a one-time student of ancient Greek, knows all too well. In the drama that has enveloped him and his 23-year-old son Robert Jr., a Cornell University graduate student who in the US two weeks ago caused the biggest computer gridlock on record, the moment came five years ago in Washington.

The elder Mr Morris, an expert on computer security, who at the time worked for Bell Laboratories, was a witness before a US Government committee studying a new and ominous phenomenon called the computer virus. His testimony was blunt.

"The notion that we are raising a generation of children so technically sophisticated that they can outwit

the best efforts of the security specialists of America's largest corporations and of the military," he said, "is utter nonsense."

"I wish it were true. That would bode well for the technological future of the country."

Now an isolated realization of the very fears that Mr Morris addressed has hit home in a very personal way, posing a threat to the future of his brilliant son.

The younger Mr Morris — RTM, the name of his computer log-on, to some friends — has, on the advice of his lawyer, to discuss the virus incident or other matters. He is the subject of an inquiry by the FBI and US attorneys in two states.

He has been identified by friends as the creator of an electronic virus, developed for a non-malicious experiment, that ran out of control and

swamped 6,000 terminals last week along a nationwide Pentagon computer network called Arpanet.

His father, now chief scientist at the US Government's National Computer Security Centre, is the man responsible for shielding Arpanet and other, more sensitive computer networks from such electronic intruders.

He is also the man who introduced his gifted son to the craft of computing, and so he is torn by the furor surrounding the Arpanet incident.

Mr Morris is a senior official of the US National Security Agency, a government intelligence bureau whose very existence was a secret for decades, and nightly mention of his son on television news programmes, he said, "is not a career plus."

On the other hand, he has heard what other experts say

of the Arpanet virus: that it was a programming triumph "fit for publication in a journal," that it caused no lasting damage, that it pointed up far more serious security threats.

And, in an interview, Mr Morris appeared to find it difficult to suppress some pride in the technical wizardry of his creator.

"I know a few dozen people in the country who could have done it," he said.

In 26 years at Bell Laboratories Mr Morris, a pure mathematician by training, helped create the Unix program that is the foundation of modern computer operations.

Both are also deeply involved in the study of computer security and are intellectually keen on the challenge of finding holes and "backdoors" in computer programs, touted as burglar-proof.

• NY Times News Service

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COMPUTING IN SAUDI ARABIA

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The information services function of this major financial institution based in the capital, Riyadh, is central to the support of the organisation's core business, and is closely involved in planning for future strategic business developments.

The current installation is a local area VAX cluster, based on a VAX 11/785 and an mVAX II, and linked by Ethernet to approximately 100 IBM PC/XT/ATs, laser printers and terminals. Construction of a new computer facility is nearing completion, which will support the planned acquisition of a VAX 62xx with full cluster capabilities. Major software currently employed includes VAX/VMS RDB/SQL, VAX/VMS services for MSDOS, DECnet, DECnet/DOS, plus a range of standard PC software. Current applications, written principally in COBOL, include general ledger, loan systems, human resources systems and administrative systems. There is a clear commitment to acquiring and using the best available resources to meet the information needs of the organisation.

In order to provide full support for existing requirements, and to meet future planned growth, it now seeks to make six additional key appointments.

Technical Support Specialist

Within the above environment, you will be responsible for capacity planning, VAX system management, network management, planning and co-ordination, technical standards, security, and user support.

Candidates must have at least three years' recent or current experience in a technical support function with VAX/VMS and DECnet. Ideally, they will also have had experience of a VAX cluster environment, VAX/VMS RDB/SQL and VAX/VMS services for MSDOS. Ref: R2282/TL

PC Support Specialist

The use of PCs in the organisation has grown significantly in the last 2-3 years, both for stand-alone applications and for the manipulation of data on the mainframe. This is a new post

created specifically to provide hardware and software support to PC users. Current software employed includes PMW, dBase, Lotus 123, Multimate, Harvard Graphics, DECnet/DOS and VAX/VMS services for MSDOS. Future planned developments in this area include the use of the VAX for file and print serving.

Candidates should have experience of PC hardware and software selection, PC networking and PC/network security. They must be familiar with most of the software described above since they will be responsible for the creation and support of a help-desk facility. Whilst not essential, VAX experience would be particularly useful. Ref: R2283/TL

Senior Programmers - Applications

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Candidates must have previous experience of VAX COBOL, FMS, and RDB/SQL within a structured development environment, ideally with specific exposure to the PRISM development methodology. Ref: R2285/TL

For all these positions, fluency in written and spoken English is essential, whilst knowledge of Arabic would clearly be an advantage. Experience within a financial organisation, and possibly overseas experience, would also be useful. Candidates will be expected, as part of the job requirement, to participate in the on-the-job training and development of Saudi nationals.

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TECHNOLOGY

The cabled palace

Architecture has been slow to react to the challenge of designing for new technology. But, says Pat Sweet, things are changing

High-technology buildings may not be all that popular with Prince Charles, who probably believes they look too much like the word processors they are designed to house, but their numbers are increasing fast. And the new-style buildings are producing new jobs for the computer industry.

Most office developments are now intended to accommodate almost as many computers as people. Terminals on every desk also means miles of cable, which has to be fitted into under-floor or ceiling space, plus additional power supply and air conditioning facilities. Until now, the IT needs of modern-building design have been badly understood. Cabling has often been done piecemeal, with separate wiring for different computer networks, as well as the traditional security and fire alarm systems. The result is a spaghetti-junction style tangle of wires in the ducts and cable trays.

Now there is the possibility of developing "intelligent buildings", which use one plug-in wiring system for computer terminals, so that space usage can be planned much more flexibly. Such buildings also tend to have sophisticated environmental monitoring systems which detect, for example, when the temperature drops and the heating should be turned on.

Butler Cox, a management consultancy, is researching a study for computer suppliers IBM, Digital Equipment, British Telecom and AT&T considering "best-practice" guidelines to ensure buildings can make use of such developments. The consultancy director, Roger Camrass, explains that success in producing buildings that can accommodate IT systems without huge expense and inconvenience requires computer people with a blend of IT and managerial skills, as well as new technology itself. He says: "Traditionally, there has been a top-down approach to building design, where the architect conceives the building based on the customer's needs, and the subsequent elements of work involved are delegated to specialists. In effect, the building is designed from the outside in."

"But now the question of IT needs is so important and so influential on the design and function of the building that companies want to consult a joint team, made up of people from many disciplines, including electrical engineering and space planning, and effectively design from the inside out."

Such a team, which includes quantity surveyors, mechanical engineers



Architectural advance: The banking hall atrium of Hong Kong Bank's headquarters

and interior designers, is led by an independent project manager, whose job is to ensure all the customer's needs are considered.

"Once the provision for IT is right," he said, "everything else follows. This means that since IT has the driving force, it is often IT people who are best able to act as project managers."

The project manager also has a role to play in keeping information costs under control.

Mr Camrass says that a handful of proprietary cabling systems are now emerging as the standard wiring options for new buildings. "In New York we are seeing people draw up very rigid specifications for cabling, rather than just leaving it in the hands of the suppliers. It is possible to halve the cost of wiring by writing a detailed specification." A project manager will

be required to tackle this issue and also to plan how computers should be distributed around the building.

Despite the trend towards a terminal on every desk, many companies find there is still a need for a central computer hardware area in a building where machines can be kept in secure and environmentally suitable conditions.

He says: "In future, companies will have to consider whether to litter the place with computer kit everywhere, which brings its own demands in terms of cooling power and security, or whether it is cleverer to have one purpose-built room per floor, or one dedicated floor in a building - half way up, so there is less wiring to the top and bottom of the building."

"This may mean giving 10 per cent

of the business space for a major information technology operations centre."

Whichever option a company chooses, the building will contain far more sophisticated air conditioning, power supplies, computer networks, specialist lighting and environmental control sensors than ever before.

"There will be a very hi-tech control environment," he says.

"In the US, facility management, actually looking after the building, is becoming a major discipline with universities like Cornell, offering postgraduate courses in the subject. This can also mean jobs for computer technicians, capable of fine tuning a building's environmental systems and of supervising its networks, who will replace the traditional janitor in the boiler room."

UK Technology Press Awards

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The finalists for the 1988 UK Technology Press Awards sponsored by The Times and Hewlett-Packard are announced today.

A record number of over 280 entries were received for the nine categories of awards with the winners being announced at a special awards ceremony tomorrow night at Claridges hosted by Ned Sherrin. The finalists are:

Technology Journal: Mac User - edited by Chris Lanigan and published by Dennis Publishing.
Network - edited by Sue Ablett and Workstation - edited by Nick Walker both published by VNU publications.

Technology Programme: Horizon BBC TV.
Supercomputer the race for the prize, and **The Techno Show** from BBC Radio Cambridge.

Technology Columnist: Freelancers Martin Banks and David Tebbitt and Mick McLean, Electronics Times.

Technology Photographer: Steve Bicknell, New Scientist and freelance Philip Habib.

News Journalist (computing): Tony Collins, Computer News. Jane Dudman and Patricia Tehan, Computing.

News Journalist (electronics): Gren Mannel, The Engineer and Mick McLean and Chris Partridge, Electronics Times.

Features Journalist (computing): Paul Abrahams, Financial Times, Paul Healy, Which Computer and freelance Andy Lawrence.

Features Journalist (electronics): Della Bradshaw and Clive Cookson, Financial Times and Simon Lee, Electronics Times.

Best Designed Journal: Apple Business - art director Sian Lewis, published by International Magazines, **Micro Decision** - art editor Julie Downey, published by VNU Publications and **Which Computer** - art editor David Humphrey published by EMAP Business and Computing Publications.

The 25 finalists are competing for prizes worth a total of over £20,000, which include British Airways holidays for two to New York flying by Concorde for both the features journalists, and a Hewlett-Packard desktop publishing system with laser printer for the Technology Journal.

Will we take to the Texan way of buying PCs?

By Geoff Wheelwright

Three large computer companies from Texas are out to change the way that the British buy personal computers. Dell, Compuadd and Tandy are exploring mail-order and direct-sales techniques to try to capture a share of the European computer market which they say has so far been under-exploited.

Of the three, Tandy's approach is probably the most conventional. As any visitor to a typical high street will probably know, Tandy already has a network of electronics stores throughout the UK and wants to increase awareness of its personal computer technology.

If it is successful, Tandy stands to gain from those who may have until now bought Amstrad machines from other high-street electronics vendors.

Tandy's approach has already netted the company the title of self-proclaimed number one PC-supplier by volume in the US.

Dell and Compuadd, however, feel that people should be able to buy personal computers without ever having to enter a showroom - or indeed leave their office.

For the last year, Dell has been selling personal computers of up to £4,000 in value by mail order. The company claims that this allows it to offer lower prices to consumers and provide better direct service as back-up.

Indeed, Dell does offer a 30-day money-back guarantee on all its PCs, so that anyone initially dissatisfied can reclaim their money without penalty.

It is this approach that

Compuadd wants to imitate after its initial flush of success with mail order in the US.

According to Ed Thomas, Compuadd's vice president and general manager, there is still a substantial market for mail order products in Britain which has not been met by current suppliers.

Mr Thomas said: "When we first looked at the UK we were appalled by the level of support and the prices being charged through the traditional distribution channels." Compuadd has so far built a \$250 million business around this method of sales in the United States.

Mr Thomas estimates that currently 5 per cent of all PC sales are made via mail order. Though he does not expect that number to grow much beyond 7 per cent, that is still a vast chunk of business.

The real savings to the consumer, it is argued, come about because mail-order companies tend to have only eight per cent of their costs in the distribution process, while 30-40 per cent of the price of an average PC commonly goes to the dealer in machines sold through more traditional channels.

What often makes PC buyers nervous, however, is that they will not get the same levels of support and service from mail-order companies as they would through buying via traditional dealers.

But Compuadd and Dell claim that their service contracts and respective hot-line services sufficiently embrace this problem.

But it will even 7 per cent of Britain's PC-buying public share their view?



Ed Thomas, Compuadd vice president: Still a good market for mail-order products in Britain

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High-tech cloak-and-dagger growing

By Elizabeth Fowler

The intelligence activities of corporations are on the rise and particularly in high-tech companies. A study released recently by a US business-research organization, Conference Board, indicates that AT&T, for example, has one of the biggest and liveliest systems.

More and more companies, said Howard Sutton, author of the report, realize the need for what he calls "penetration vision," or knowing what competitors are doing. He cites new books on the topic, more seminars, a two-year-old Society of Competitor Intelligence Professionals - which now has more than 500 members from 300 companies in

six nations - and a growing number of intelligence consulting firms as further evidence of the trend.

Many companies have long done informal intelligence-gathering in market-research departments, relying on what Mr Sutton calls "salesmen in the trenches" who talk to customers, track counter space for products, and relay trade gossip. Companies also make laboratory tests of competitive products.

Checking tax and real estate records can indicate if a competitor has construction plans; court records can be valuable. This information needs integration and analysis. Beyond and above such

obvious sources, he said, imagination comes into play - one company flew an airplane over a competitor's plant with an observer to count parked cars, trucks and smokestacks.

Another intelligence head dispatched observers to count trucks in and out of a plant for several days.

The Madrid office of a company reported that a lot of a competitor's employees had been assigned to Spain.

From this, the intelligence sector deduced accurately that the competitor planned to open a large unit in South America once its employees learnt the Spanish language and culture. Local plants often

offer public tours, which give competitors a chance to slip experts into the tour groups to observe the number of shifts working, age and types of equipment, inventory and other key factors.

Japanese companies, whose intelligence activities are highly developed, have been known to station people with tape recorders on commuter trains to pick up careless conversation. Though spying on the enemy is as ancient as

anking, the US company that probably pioneered a formalized corporate-intelligence system was the electronics firm, Motorola.

Its former chairman, Robert Galvin, concluded that multinational companies could benefit from intelligence capabilities. Mr Galvin said: "I am afraid that for some firms it may take their own Pearl Harbor to realize they need an intelligence system. It's a new management tool, not yet being taught in business schools."

Science's biggest plan gets the green light

What has been described as the biggest science project in the history came a step closer last week when the US Energy Department recommended that its superconducting supercollider be built in Texas. The supercollider, an oval-shaped, 10ft-wide underground tunnel, is expected to be the biggest particle accel-

erator - atom-smasher - in the world. The tunnel will send beams of protons in opposite directions around the underground track at nearly the speed of light. The beams collide, releasing a shower of subatomic particles that scientists will study to learn more about the nature of energy and matter.

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TECHNOLOGY

The price of job switching

Leslie Tilley looks at the high staff turnover in information technology which costs the industry high

JOBSCENE

It can be estimated that more than 50,000 staff working in information technology change jobs each year. As well as affecting the ability for companies to plan projects and staff requirements the high turnover could also be costing industry a lot more than it realizes.

According to a recent report by Philip Virgo of IT Strategy Services "One in 10 information technology users and almost one in eight of software and service suppliers, are crippled or have their survival threatened by the poaching of skilled and experienced staff".

Those bodies which monitor the computer industry differ on the total size of the UK computing workforce and little work has yet been done on the cost to industry of the high level of turnover.

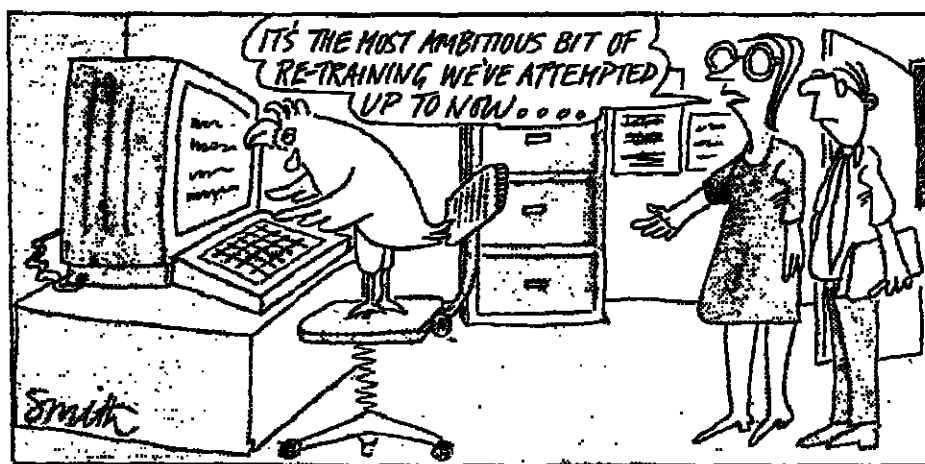
The CBI said there are about 300,000 skilled staff working in the user community, computer suppliers and computing services sectors.

But the National Computing Centre (NCC), which monitors the user community, said that this sector alone employs 240,000 staff from management to operators.

The computing services companies say they account for about another 50,000 staff with IT skills so it is reasonable to assume a skilled population in the UK of more than 300,000 and there are still the hardware suppliers like IBM and Digital to consider, which could account for a further 50,000.

The NCC has calculated that the national average for turnover is about 16 per cent which means about 50,000 employees are changing jobs each year. This turnover figure varies by region and job category with Northern Ireland having a low rate of 8 per cent compared to London's 23 per cent.

It is difficult to calculate the cost to industry of replacing this body of mobile staff. One



data processing manager, for example, recounted how he spent £6,000 on advertising for an analyst programmer and only received two replies; neither were remotely suitable.

Ian Seward, director of Management Services, Allied Dunbar said: "Recruitment is expensive. On average an analyst or programmer costs us £10,000 to recruit or relocate. This figure excludes the cost of management time for planning and running a recruitment campaign."

In addition a new recruit takes at least six months to become fully effective. So,

replacing an experienced analyst or programmer could cost us up to £20,000. Implementing plans to increase the retention of staff is definitely a worthwhile investment."

If other companies faced a similar £10,000 recruitment cost, the high level of turnover in information technology could be costing up to half a billion pounds a year to replace staff who have left or moved elsewhere and need to be replaced.

Esmond Lindop, deputy director of employment affairs at the CBI, said: "That figure sounds reasonably right and is

certainly an impressive cost. But it has to be looked at in the context of other figures. For example, the cost of absence to all sectors of industry is about £5 billion, but that sort of cost for turnover in information technology alone is high."

Dominic Cornford, senior consultant in the Information Services Division of the NCC said: "The turnover of systems development staff is what counts as these staff are the most difficult to recruit and the most sought after."

We estimate there are 150,000 to 160,000 of this category of staff in the user

community. At an average of 16 per cent turnover that comes to 24,000 staff changing jobs annually, which means it can cost a quarter of a billion pounds in advertising costs alone.

However, the £10,000 cost of recruitment and taking six months until they get up to speed in a new job does sound like a lot to me. You would expect an experienced programmer to be productive a lot quicker."

But one recruitment agency said £10,000 was not "unrealistic" - it's very much the average, although it does depend on the job category and the region.

"There is certainly an awareness of how much it costs to replace staff. The ways of cutting down recruitment and retention costs is a major issue and the high turnover is having an upward pressure on pay as companies look at salaries in an attempt to attract new recruits and to keep existing staff."

"Training is more cost-effective than advertising and the emphasis has to be put on improving the supply of computer staff". He added that companies cut training during the last recession and are now suffering the consequences.



Robert Wilson: The highest compliment

Honours for Space Britons

By Robert Matthews

British astronomers were honoured last week by President Reagan for their role in the design of the longest-lived astronomical satellite ever built, which has made fundamental contributions to our understanding of the universe.

Launched in 1978 and still working well, the International Ultraviolet Explorer (IUE) was the brainchild of Professor Robert Wilson, head of the department of physics and astronomy at University College, London.

Orbiting high above the Earth's atmosphere, the satellite is able to observe planets, stars and galaxies at ultraviolet frequencies, a band of radiation which is blotted out by the ozone layer.

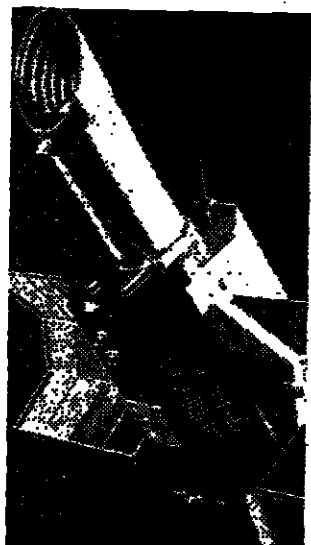
Last year it made crucial observations of a spectacular supernova explosion of a star in the southern skies, which showed that some massive stars end their lives as giant, intensely-hot blue stars, rather than as red giant stars, as previously thought.

Professor Wilson was last week presented with the 1988 Presidential Award for Design Excellence on behalf of the team of British scientists behind the IUE.

"This is the highest compliment to the intellectual initiative of groups in this country", he said.

The television cameras which relay the ultraviolet spectrograms taken by the satellite's instruments are the principal British contribution, and are still working perfectly.

The award is the culmination of a long-fought battle by Professor Wilson to win acceptance of his proposal to build a satellite, dating back to the late 1960s when he was



An artist's impression of the International Ultraviolet Explorer

head of the Science and Engineering Research Council's Astrophysics research unit at Culham, Oxfordshire.

Despite favourable reports from independent assessors, the European space agency, then known as Esro, turned down the project.

It took NASA's enthusiasm to look at the universe through different "eyes" to make the IUE project a reality. Once the US agency had become involved, the Europeans joined in what became an international collaboration.

The IUE is now widely regarded as one of the great successes of observational astronomy. "If you simply measure its impact by the rate at which scientific papers have been produced as a result of its probing the universe, the IUE has been more successful than any other space-born or terrestrial astronomical facility" said Professor Wilson.

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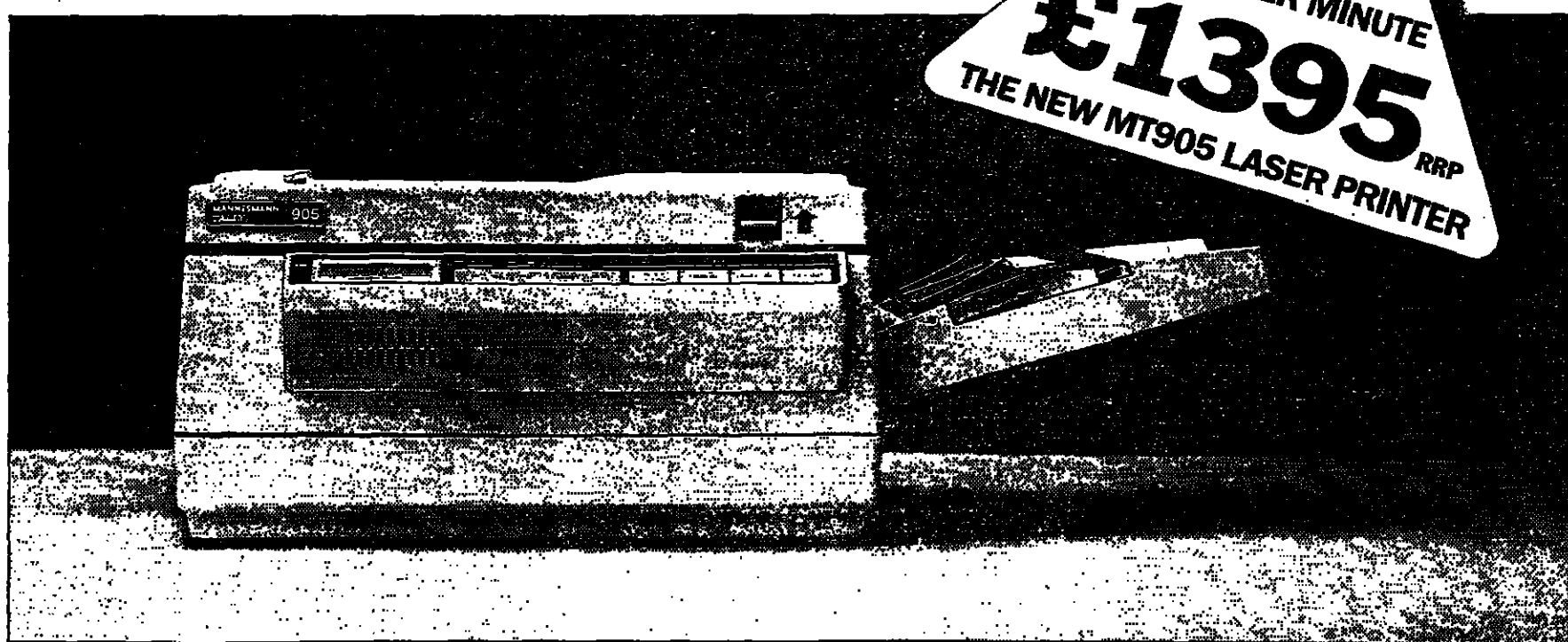
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LEGAL & FINANCIAL

By Edward Fennell

The unspeakable year

I should warn you that this column will soon be designated a 1992 Free Zone. My research team has been told to scan all incoming material and shred everything referring to those four digits (in any order). Correspondence with a Brussels postmark will be dustbinized unopened.

Does this mean I am blinkered about 1992, the year of the European single market? *Au contraire*. I have always considered myself as *très Communautaire*. But I think we have reached the stage where most leading firms in London and the regions have laid their plans for Europe, are forging European connections and are beavering away at the detail.

It is the exception to find a firm which is serious about commercial work yet not geared up for 1992. And as someone said to me last week: "If a firm is not by now fully switched on to 1992 and doing European work, they've lost the race already."

So to avoid dozens of identical stories about 1992, we shall permit only the exceptional to filter through. Which brings me to Peter Kunzick, who has joined the Leeds-Bradford solicitors Hammond Suddard as their Euro expert. Mr Kunzick is exceptional in that he gained a treble first in law from Cambridge, took a master's and was then called to the Bar.

For the next 18 months, he practised as a barrister, before going back to Cambridge, where he was a don at St John's. He was then appointed consultant editor to the Common Market supplement to *Halsbury* and reckons that he is the only person in Britain to have read every directive to come out of Brussels last year.

1992 is coming, ready or not, so there is no point in endless identical stories about preparations for the European single market

Mr Kunzick says that on deciding to leave teaching he would have had no difficulties whatever in joining a big City firm. However, he found it easy to resist their blandishments in favour of life in the North.

He explains: "I am a northerner by origin and I decided I wanted to go back there. So I approached a number of possible firms, of which Hammond Suddard impressed me both by its present work in Europe and its plans for the future."

Mr Kunzick has been in Bradford for just over seven weeks. Apart from the obvious service to existing clients, he wants to attract "inward investors" from overseas. That is why he has spent more time abroad than at home, travelling in France and the United States, beating the drum on behalf of the regions.

The response has been good. For example, though the French are fully aware of the UK's North-South split, businessmen and lawyers in towns such as Lille are very receptive to working with non-London firms.

Mr Kunzick says: "I explained the advantages that a Leeds firm has over a London firm and they were instantly sympathetic because they often say the same things themselves in relation to Lille and Paris. On the other hand, when I was in America there was a

feeling that anywhere in the UK was a very attractive proposition as a way into Europe. They were then interested in Hammond Suddard because we had taken the trouble to come and talk to them direct."

The recruitment of Mr Kunzick represents a long-term investment for Hammond Suddard. For the time being no one expects him to bring in fat fees and he has been given the opportunity to build up a hand-picked team of Euro-experts from among his network of Euro-specialist friends. The fact that someone of his calibre has been recruited by a non-London firm as a part of its strategy for Europe lends weight to the idea that regional firms are seriously challenging all but the largest City firms for big-time work.

John Pratt, of the Birmingham and London firm Needham & James, took much the same line. He was actually in Brussels last week when he spoke to me, having just emerged from one of his regular meetings with members of the commission to sort out details on behalf of his clients.

On the positive side he praised, perhaps surprisingly, the accessibility of commission officials. The fact that they have direct telephone lines means that once you have made some

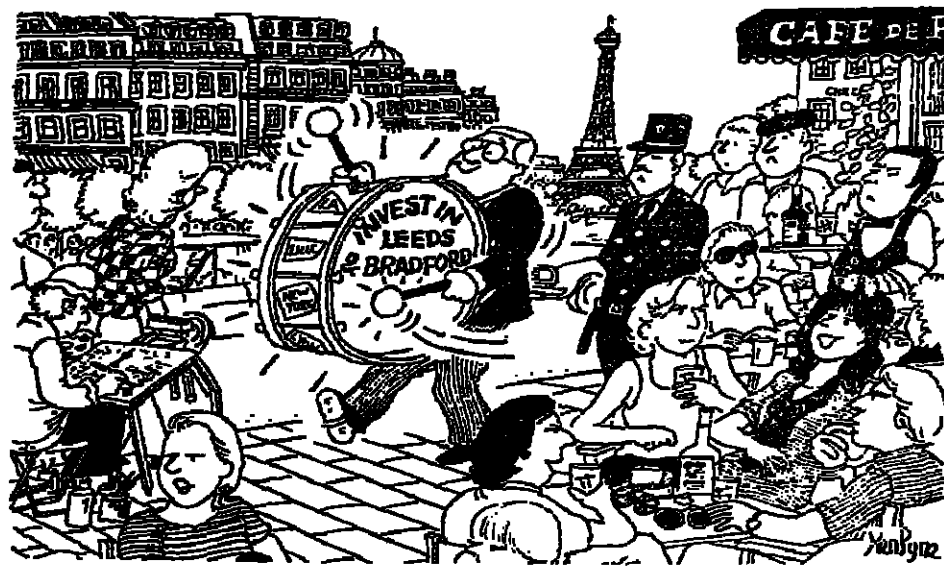
personal contacts you can easily cut through the bureaucratic barriers. What worries him, however, is whether enough UK solicitors are investing in the resources and contacts that Euro-work will demand.

Mr Pratt said: "My anxiety about Europe is that we solicitors might lose out to the accountants as we already have done on other matters. For example, the big accountancy firms are already linked to the Commission's Database, Celer, which gives details of all the Commission's directives. On the whole lawyers aren't. I feel we must get on to this immediately if we are to keep up with the accountants for advisory work."

What this really raises questions about is resources. Money is needed for these information subscriptions, for overseas trips, for the lead-time in building up contacts and connections, and for the research work. The briefing paper published by McKenna's earlier this month, for example, 1992 and the *Manufacture - A Practical Plan for Action*, contained the kind of detailed information and thorough checklists which would probably be beyond most medium-sized firms while Allen & Overy (who can take some pride in their publication 1992 - *The Impact*, which is the longest text I have seen so far) has a 1992 group of 10 partners, two of whom are based in Brussels.

No wonder there have been so many big mergers in the regions to compete with this kind of input.

So will 1992 complete what 1066 started? I think only you, by what you do, can answer that.



BRIEFLY

While ardent authors pine at their feet, pretty little law firms polish their nails, toes they want to be alone, writes Edward Fennell. A survey into the prospects for multidisciplinary practices by Dr Bob Abroyd, of the Centre for the Study of the Professions at the Aston University Business School, revealed that architects, estate agents, patent agents and accountants all rate lawyers as being their first choice of "marriage partner" in a mixed practice. But the lawyers showed no interest in getting hitched and said they were inclined to a life of celibacy. Details of the survey were revealed to a Birmingham audience of the city's leading professional practices, when it became clear that lawyers more than

any other group are hostile to the Government's campaign to break down traditional divisions. For example, only a quarter of solicitors were in favour of mixed practices whereas 95 per cent of accountants favoured the idea. It was also significant that the lawyers seemed less interested than anyone else in "team building" and "human resource training" which would be required to make multidisciplinary practices work.

But if lawyers aren't keen to co-reside with any other professions, can they live with each other? Swelled by their new recruits from Addleshaw, 125 partners of the MS Group spent last weekend down at Torquay discussing common concerns such as the Group's

marketing strategy and their preparations for the Single Market.

"The conference acts as a kind of annual general meeting for the group," explained Matthew Moore, director of publicity. "From discussions over the weekend, members of the board were able to identify a consensus which they will carry forward into the Group's policymaking for next year."

It was not all work, however. The high point of the weekend was a dinner-dance on Saturday evening. Rumour (probably false) has it that some local accountants were invited in to make up the numbers as dancing partners. Alas, poor things, they remained wallflowers all evening as the lawyers determinedly danced with each other.

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Medium size go-ahead practice with strong European links are seeking ambitious Solicitors. Ideally 2 years plus qualified, to take on an interesting mix of commercial litigation. Genuine Partnership prospects.

COMPANY COMMERCIAL £30,000++

We are currently recruiting on behalf of a well-established progressive city practice for experienced Company Commercial Lawyers with a good academic background. The work will include a variety of corporate and commercial law with a strong international bias. Superb prospects and an excellent benefits package offered to the right candidates.

PROVINCES

COMPANY COMMERCIAL £30,000

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Well established and rapidly expanding practice is seeking a young qualified Solicitor to take over an existing client base and generally develop the firm's company commercial department. Full back-up and support offered plus early partnership prospects.

GENERAL PRACTITIONER £20,000+

East Sussex

Established East Sussex practice is seeking a qualified Solicitor to work in one of their expanding offices in pleasant coastal town. You will be handling a general case-load with an emphasis on Conveyancing and Probate.

CONVEYANCING £25,000+

Berks

An experienced Commercial Conveyancing Solicitor is sought by this large, well-established practice. The work will primarily consist of commercial property but some residential work is involved. A solid existing clientele is offered.

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Commercial Lawyer

At Rediffusion Simulation our operations are on a truly global scale and involve complex negotiations with customers, suppliers and authorities (both civil and military) from all over the world. We currently have a vacancy for a lawyer to join our busy commercial department, the centre for much of this activity.

You will be involved in a wide range of commercial work including drafting and negotiating contracts for the sale of capital goods, joint venture and collaboration agreements and participation in intellectual property and licensing transactions. In all of these areas you will be expected to provide specialist legal advice to management where necessary.

This is an exciting opportunity for a qualified solicitor or barrister with around 2 years' commercial experience in industry or in private practice. The wide range of commitments will take you into all areas of our business, and will certainly necessitate some overseas travel.

We offer a competitive salary supported by generous benefits including assistance with relocation to our Crawley head office, where appropriate.

Please write, enclosing a full cv, to: John Cochrane, Rediffusion Simulation Ltd, Gatwick Road, Crawley, Sussex RH10 2RL, or phone him on (0293) 563036.



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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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WEST END & HOLBORN OFFICE

PRIVATE PRACTICE

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

WC1 High calibre ambitious company/commercial lawyer with 2-3 years' relevant PQ is sought by the expanding department of this impressive Holborn practice to undertake company/commercial matters with a slight bias towards entertainment law. The firm has an impressive client base and consistently high quality work.

SHIPPING LITIGATION

WC2 If you have 1-3 years' relevant PQ and the desire to undertake a broad spectrum of quality shipping litigation then don't miss this exciting opportunity to join the litigation department of a Mayfair based practice renowned for this type of work. Ideal candidates will have excellent interpersonal skills and be able to work well under pressure.

COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCING

WC2 If you're a Legal Executive, around 20 years, with good commercial property experience, this is an excellent opportunity for you to join an established medium sized firm. Dealing with mainly commercial work with a little residential conveyancing, your workload will always be of a high calibre.

For details of Private Practice vacancies throughout the Capital, please contact Gillian Croft on 01-583 0073 (day) or 01-272 2837 (evenings and weekends).

6TH FLOOR, 29-31 OXFORD ST, LONDON W1R 1RE.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

LONDON To £32,000 + Bens Major telecommunications PLC has a vacancy for a property lawyer to join their legal department which provides advice and services in relation to matters affecting land and interests in land to all parts of the group. Relevant commercial property experience and an interest in planning matters essential.

OIL LAWYER

LONDON To £30,000 + Bens Major Oil Company seeks a Solicitor or Barrister with up to 3 years' commercial experience to join their small legal department. Dealing with a range of corporate matters including joint ventures, licensing and in particular contract work, it is important that the candidate can assume responsibility and work with minimum supervision.

COMMERCIAL LAWYER

WEYBRIDGE To £25,000 + Car Commercially-minded Solicitor or Barrister with around 3 years' PQ is sought by a multinational group. Working as part of their small legal team the successful candidate will deal with commercial matters including testing of marketing activities, advising on contracts and intellectual property. Ability to give confident, commercial advice essential. Excellent prospects.

For details of vacancies in Commerce and Industry throughout London please contact Amanda Browne on 01-583 0073 (day) or 01-272 2837 (evenings and weekends).

BADENOCH & CLARK
RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

CITY OFFICE

PRIVATE PRACTICE

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

EC4 This dynamic city practice seeks additional Solicitors with 0-2 years' PQ to join its vigorous litigation department. The work is wide ranging covering, inter alia, commercial disputes relevant to the financial community, insurance and industry. Great emphasis is placed on academic credentials and an upper second class degree is normally required. Firm rate work and prospects.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY - PARTNER DESIGNATE

EC3 Medium sized commercial practice seeks Solicitor with 4 years' PQ to join its expanding property department. Duties will include acting on behalf of property companies and financial institutions, advising them on all aspects of commercial property transactions. You will also be involved with the property aspects of company takeovers and the planning and management of major retail and industrial projects. Immense partnership.

BANKING LAWYERS - ALL LEVELS

EC2 Dynamic City practice requires Solicitors to join its thriving banking department. Principle areas of work will include advice on all domestic and international banking operations. Candidates will ideally possess experience of UK and international banking transactions. Applications will also be welcomed from Solicitors with strong corporate backgrounds, who are keen to move into this field. Re-entrants available if necessary.

For details of these and other Private Practice vacancies London-wide, please contact Judith Farmer or Rose Hallowell on 01-583 0073 (day) or 01-272 2837 (evenings and weekends).

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COMMERCE/BANKING

COMMERCIAL SOLICITOR

EC4 A young Solicitor with up to 3 years' PQ is sought by our client, a leading international blue chip organisation, to join their legal department. Handling a wide range of commercial matters including product liability, consumer complaints, contracts, EEC competition law and intellectual property matters, this is an excellent opportunity to gain broad corporate experience.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

CITY To £25,000 + Mortgage Subsidy Our client, one of the largest UK life assurance companies has an opening for a Solicitor up to one year qualified to join a team involved in major property transactions. Work will include acquisitions, disposals, leases, secured lending and property investment. Excellent in-house opportunity to gain varied commercial property experience with an attractive remuneration package.

MERCHANT BANK

CITY £Excellent The investment management arm of this top UK merchant bank is looking for a very bright Solicitor to join its expanding Corporate Services Department. Company commercial experience gained in a top City practice coupled with a confident, assertive personality and business acumen is essential in analysing the effects and implications of new financial products. An excellent opportunity.

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combined with sound commercial sense. It also provides an opportunity to handle a wide variety of work, a chance to acquire commercial skills, and the satisfaction that comes from being involved in problems right through from the beginning.

Candidates should be solicitors or barristers with at least one year's experience in commercial law, gained in industry or private practice. Since much of your work will be international, you should be prepared to travel.

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- Litigation - Commercial and Civil
- Commercial property

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In return we offer an excellent remuneration package, and a progressive career based on ability and achievement.

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We are seeking a lawyer to be directly involved in IFPI's anti-piracy campaigns for legislation and enforcement, primarily in Europe.

A knowledge of copyright law and experience of enforcement of intellectual property rights are essential. Candidates should be qualified to practice in the EEC and be fluent in English and at least one other major European language. Knowledge of the music industry would be an advantage.

The successful candidate will operate from IFPI's Secretariat in central London. An attractive salary and benefits will be paid according to qualifications and experience.

Applicants should apply in writing with details of their careers and current salary to Mr Ian Thomas, Director General, IFPI Secretariat, 54 Regent Street, London W1R 5PJ by 2 December 1988.

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Please send a comprehensive c.v. to:-

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ARE YOU ON THE CITY TREADMILL?

Are you a company/commercial lawyer up to three years' qualified? Would you like to develop your experience and skills on the South Coast?

An opportunity has arisen from the merger of Thomas Eggar & Son and Verrall Bowles & Stevens for two solicitors to join our successful and expanding company/commercial department. If you have a good legal background and a commercial attitude we'd like to meet you. Please contact Sally Norwood Webb at our Head Office: 5, East Pallant, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1TS: telephone 0243-766111.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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The County's conditions of service include up to 30 days' leave plus public holidays, car allowance and leasing and a generous relocation scheme.

Persons interested are invited to contact the undersigned with a view to spending Wednesday, the 7th December, 1988, with the Justices' Clerks to discuss without obligation the opportunities which exist within Oxfordshire.

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A young solicitor with 2-3 years qualified experience for OFFSHORE TAX PLANNING WITH a COMMERCIAL BIAS who would like to specialise in this fast expanding field in which we are well experienced. We have close links with a long established Trustee and Corporate Management Company in Geneva. The position is based in London and the work involves offshore tax planning for substantial private clients and has a heavy commercial bias. The successful applicant must have the ability and personality to deal directly with the clients concerned and be able to work with the minimum of supervision.

Salary will be competitive according to age and experience.

Candidates should write, enclosing a curriculum vitae, to:

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David A. W. H. Chandler
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PRIVATE PRACTICE

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Please contact Lisa Wilson who will treat all enquiries in confidence. 20 Cousin Lane, London EC4R 3TE. Telephone 01-236 7307. Fax 01-489 1130.

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A comprehensive and competitive remuneration package will be offered and to equip our lawyers to meet the growing demands of our work we also provide continuing in-house training and education. If you are an experienced finance lawyer you can also help us by training those with less experience.

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We will provide cross-training to enable them to develop expertise as commercial entertainment lawyers.

Company - we seek a business-minded lawyer with at least a year's top level experience for direct involvement in national and international acquisitions, joint ventures, buy-outs and corporate finance transactions, preferably with a good knowledge of EEC Law, Tax and Stock Exchange regulations.

Fluency in another European language would be useful.

Commercial Property - we require 2 solicitors, one of a senior level (probably currently a partner or partner designate) for all aspects of high-grade property investment work and the other with around 2 years post-admission experience in commercial conveyancing, to act for leading public companies.

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THE GROWTH CONTINUES. ARE YOU ABLE TO BE PART OF IT?

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An outstanding opportunity has arisen for an experienced solicitor to head up the firm's corporate tax department.

This is a significant appointment which demands excellent managerial and technical abilities, as the successful applicant will be

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For further information please call Anna Thorne on 01-831 2000 (evenings and weekends 04868 4763) or write to her at Michael Page Legal 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH.



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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

City/West End

CO/COMMERCIAL £30 K+
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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY c. £34 K
We are instructed to introduce a solicitor, with one to three years' experience, to join a central London practice with an enviable reputation in intellectual property law. There is a wide range of work including industrial copyright, computer related disputes, trade marks and the protection of trade secrets. The prospects are excellent.

CONSTRUCTION c. £27 K
A young lawyer, qualified for up to two years, is required by this established City firm for its expanding construction and engineering department. A background in good quality litigation, preferably in building, is essential.

INSOLVENCY c. £30 K
A respected London firm committed to steady growth has an urgent need for a young lawyer, well versed in insolvency, receivership and banking, both litigious and non-litigious, to join an established unit with a burgeoning caseload.

CONVEYANCING £28 K+
Our client, an established West End firm, wishes to recruit a young solicitor, qualified for about two years, who is eager to acquire expertise in good quality commercial conveyancing. Those who have residential experience and wish to train onto commercial work are welcome to apply.

Greater London

CONVEYANCING c. £20 K
Our client a small and progressive West London practice, has an immediate opportunity for an Assistant Solicitor with a minimum of one year's residential conveyancing experience.

LITIGATION £ NEG
An immediate opportunity exists within this established South East London practice for an admitted solicitor with preferably at least one year's PQE to undertake a growing civil litigation workload, inclusive of matrimonial. Salary will be competitive and in line with age and experience.

Town and Country

LITIGATION c. £15 K
A newly or recently qualified solicitor wishing to specialise in litigation is required by this small but well established firm in East Kent. There will be the opportunity to handle a wide range of litigation, including matrimonial, and also assist in one of the best known criminal practices in the area. Genuine prospects.

PROBATE £20 K+
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NON-CONTENTIOUS c. £20 K
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CIVIL LITIGATION c. £17 K
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GENERAL c. £25 K
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Commerce/Industry

COMPANY COMMERCIAL c. £30 K + BENEFITS
Our clients, an International Electronics firm, are currently seeking an experienced company commercial lawyer to join their legal department. The role will require a full working knowledge of commercial and employment law matters, and experience of EEC law will be an advantage. A competitive salary in the region of £30,000 + benefits (to include a car) is offered for the right applicant.

CONVEYANCER £ NEG
A qualified lawyer is sought to join a small but rapidly expanding legal team in the Home Loans Division of an American Bank in London. The position involves handling a caseload of mortgage supervisory matters and advising the Bank and its external lawyers. Salary is negotiable but generous with the usual banking benefits.

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We are instructed by a number of Central London and City practices to recruit barristers with specific expertise. Experience gained during and since pupillage, especially in company/commercial law, intellectual property, town and country planning, tax or commercial litigation will attract highly competitive salaries.

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An experienced pensions lawyer is required by this highly regarded Central London firm to develop this side of the practice. It is a high profile appointment and partnership prospects are outstanding.

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A solicitor/barrister with a minimum of 3 years post qualified experience in this area of law is sought by this notable EC4 practice to undertake a general workload of contentious and non-contentious work.

PLANNING LAW to £35,000
Substantial City firm seeks experienced planning lawyer to undertake an interesting and demanding workload. Applicants from local government particularly welcome.

RECENTLY TO 4 YEARS ADMITTED

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL c. £35,000
A solicitor preferably up to 4 years post qualified with a strong academic record is required by this well established Central London firm to undertake a challenging and varied international workload. The appointee will deal with a significant amount of acquisition and yellow book work for established corporate clients.

EMPLOYMENT to £30,000
A regulated Central London practice seeks a solicitor preferably who is up to 4 years admitted to join its thriving and expanding department and deal with both contentious and non-contentious work.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION c. £25,000
Young solicitor is required by this major City firm to handle an interesting spread of work with significant bank and media related element.

Please call Richard Morgan on the number below (0494-775846 after office hours) to discuss these or any of the many registered vacancies or send your curriculum vitae to the address provided.

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This leading computer services company based in central London requires two high calibre commercial lawyers qualified for between two and eight years with computer related experience to join its small legal division.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY C. £25,000
This national body requires a commercial conveyancing solicitor with at least 3 years post qualified experience to handle a wide and interesting variety of conveyancing and other property related matters.

COMMERCIAL TO £25,000
A recently qualified solicitor or barrister, ideally with some relevant experience is sought by this high technology company based in north London. The work consists of a broad range of commercial, mostly commercially based, legal matters.

COMMERCIAL TO £25,000
A number of our clients in private practice, commerce and industry have openings for newly or recently qualified barristers, ideally with good qualifications and some commercial experience.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, which are a small selection from those we are currently instructed to fill, or you would like to discuss any aspect of your career, please telephone Laurence Simons or Anne Stephenson, both of whom are qualified solicitors with extensive experience in legal recruitment, on 01 837 3388 (01 494 775846 ext 222), or write to: Laurence Simons Associates, 30 John Manners, London WC1N 2BB. All approaches will be treated in strict confidence.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCING TO £35,000
Our client, a rapidly expanding commercial firm in London WC1 with an excellent client base, seeks two conveyancing solicitors, newly qualified or with up to three years' experience, to deal with a varied commercial conveyancing workload including development work.

MIXED CONVEYANCING TO £25,000
This national practice has a vacancy for a recently admitted solicitor to join its strong, well established conveyancing department and undertake commercial and residential conveyancing.

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A leading City firm has instructed us to recruit a solicitor with a minimum of two years' experience to join its corporate team and undertake corporate banking work covering both international and domestic transactions.

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This position would suit someone with a minimum of 3 years post qualifications experience in commercial litigation, who feels ready to take on the more varied work of a Corporate Legal Department.

If you feel your own experience meets this specification and you would like to apply for this position, please write with full career details to:

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The above are a sample of vacancies currently available. If you are unsettled and would like a confidential discussion, contact our experienced Legal Consultant - Mrs. Lisa Moulds - on 0702 333751 or send C.V. to: SELECT LEGAL, 177 High Street, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 1LL

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Applications are invited for the post of Senior Clerk to a long established Common Law set of chambers in the Temple, London.

Applications in writing with a detailed C.V. to box no E91, RefTT14 c/o The Times Virginia St, London. E1 9DD.

Closing date for receipt of applications Friday 25th November 1988.

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Applications must contain full details of personal circumstances for Immigration purposes, including number of dependents, employment, academic and professional qualifications, and relevant experience. The names and addresses of four referees (two professional, two character), telephone numbers for confidential contact and an indication of when any appointment could be taken up should also be included.

Applications quoting reference number 937/03/12(E) to be forwarded by air mail to arrive no later than 29th November, 1988 to:

The Director of Personnel Services
Global House
43 Church Street
Hamilton, Bermuda HM12.

N.B. Candidates who wish to receive an acknowledgment must enclose a self-addressed postcard only with their application.

rival
in
style

Stephenson set for treble at Sedgefield

By Mandarini (Michael Phillips)

Following horses trained by Arthur Stephenson should prove profitable today at Sedgefield, where I envisage the Bishop Auckland handier winning three races with Southern Minstrel (1.30), Nautical Joke (2.0) and Bella Bannus (3.30).

Having beaten Jody's Boy by 10 lengths at the last meeting on the course 11 days ago, Nautical Joke now looks set to make a triumphant return in the Dick Brewitt Memorial Handicap Chase, and he is my nap.

For Jody's Boy was both in-form and well handicapped at the time on his close second to Raise An Argument at Wetherby. Yet Nautical Joke tossed him with complete disdain.

Before that he had finished a close third behind Green Gorse, who won again on Saturday, and Sid McQuaid at Wetherby.

Significantly, Hatsu-Girle, who beat Rejuvenator by 1½ lengths at Catterick Bridge next time out, was 22 lengths behind in fifth place that day.

I find it hard to believe that he can beat Nautical Joke this time even allowing for the

probability that that race would have brought her on as it was her first of the season. So it has to be a nautical joke for me.

Earlier, his stable companion Southern Minstrel will surely be hard to beat in Woodhouse Novices' Chase following that heartening first run over fences at Kelso last Wednesday when he was beaten only half a length by Cool Strike.

Last season, Southern Minstrel won twice over hurdles at Newcastle. Yet he has always given the impression that chasing would be his game and this was borne out by last week's race.

Having finished second to that smart plater Good Point at Catterick, Bella Bannus may be capable of making telling use of her light weight in the Stillington Handicap Hurdle.

Earlier, Arum Lily, another above-average player from the same camp as Good Point, can extend her winning sequence by capturing the Carlton Selling Hurdle.

No review of the Sedgefield programme would be complete without adding that another victory for Nautical



David Elsworth's exciting chasing prospect Barnbrook Again, who won at Devon last month, reappears in the £30,000 H & T Walker Gold Cup at Ascot on Saturday

Ascot lines up richest single-day fixture

By Jack Waterman

Ascot, which has built its reputation into a leading National Hunt course is a matter of only two decades, goes further ahead in February. Five spacers brought together in a novel package, will stage the richest single-day fixture in Britain, with added money worth £100,000.

The Charterhouse Mercantile Group is responsible for assembling the sponsors. In 1986 they took over the Ascot race, the Whitbread Trial Chase with a three-mile handicap chase (worth £15,348 to the winner, when Aquilifer prevailed earlier this year, and total money of about £23,000).

They continue their sponsorship of the race, to increase considerably the overall added money up to £30,000. The race will thus be among the richest three-mile handicap chases in the country.

The other big race on the equivalent card at Ascot is the £100,000 total and substantially increasing the overall added money of £100,000. The race will thus be among the richest three-mile handicap chases in the country.

The other big race on the equivalent card at Ascot is the £100,000 total and substantially increasing the overall added money of £100,000. The race will thus be among the richest three-mile handicap chases in the country.

Under starter's orders for new system of entries

By Phil McLennan

Racing's most radical administrative change of recent times comes into operation tomorrow with the advent of the five-day entry system.

The system is the culmination of six years study and development by a Jockey Club working party headed by Louis Freedman, owner of last year's Derby winner Reference Point.

Up to now, trainers have entered their horses three weeks before a race, decided whether to declare at the four-day stage and then cancelled at the overnight stage if they do not want their horse to run.

From tomorrow, trainers will enter just five days before the event, and declare at the overnight stage if they want to run.

Under the old system, more than 500,000 entries were made annually, with 90 per cent of them for horses which eventually did not run. Official estimates put the probable annual entry under the five-day system at around 150,000.

The new entry fees will consist of a single payment, which in most cases will be equivalent to the sum of the old entry and declaration fees. Generally, the new entry fees will be one per cent of the added value of the race.

While the method of entry for day races will be revolutionized, there will be little change with regard to pattern races and the major handicaps which will remain early-closing races.

Whether the new system proves a success will depend largely on how trainers adapt to it. Each trainer (and owner wishing to make entries) will have a security code and the telephone will now become the principal form of communication.

SEDFIELD

Selections
By Mandarini

1.00 Arum Lily	2.30 Jody's Boy
1.30 Southern Minstrel	3.00 Frimley
2.00 NAUTICAL JOKE (nap)	3.30 Bella Bannus

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Guide to our in-line racecard

1.13145 GOOD TIMES 13 (OFF F.A.S.) (Mrs D Robinson) 8 Hail 12-0

Racecard number, 50-figure form (F - full, S - slipped, U - unseated, R - refused, D - disqualified). Horse's name, Days since last outing, F - firm, good to firm, H - hard, G - good, S - soft, good to soft, heavy. Owner in italics, trainer in bold, age and weight in plain. H - hood, E - eyeblink, C - course winner, D - distance winner, CD - course and distance winner.

Going: good

1.0 CARLTON SELLING HURDLE (2843: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

1.0	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.
1.14-21	ARUM LILY (6) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.1	W. J. P. J. P.
1.14-21	ARUM LILY (6) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.1	W. J. P. J. P.

FORM

ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)

Decided at Worcester (2m 2f, good to firm) on seasonal debut.

ARUM LILY (6) (J. P. P. J. P.)

Decided at Worcester (2m 2f, good to firm) on seasonal debut.

1.30 WOODHOUSE NOVICES CHASE (21,227: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

1.30	DEBBIE DAUGHTER (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.
1.30	DEBBIE DAUGHTER (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.

FORM

DEBBIE DAUGHTER (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)

Decided at Worcester (2m 2f, good to firm) on seasonal debut.

2.0 DICK BREWITT HANDICAP CHASE (22,301: 3m 2f 160yd) (6 runners)

2.0	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.
2.0	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.

FORM

ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)

Decided at Worcester (2m 2f, good to firm) on seasonal debut.

Course specialists

TRAINER	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEY	Runners	Per cent
F. Storey	12	51	M. P. H. Jones	12	51
G. Moore	12	51	M. P. H. Jones	12	51

SOUTHWELL

Selections
By Mandarini

1.15 Rambling Wild	2.45 Sayfar's Lad
1.45 Aunsberg	3.15 Kinglor
2.15 Vulcan Warrior	3.45 Timsolo

Going: good to firm

1.15 POPULAR CONTINENTAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (21,573: 2m 74yd) (5 runners)

1.15	MEIKLEOOD 208 (2) (F.A.S.) (Mrs A. Legg)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.
1.15	MEIKLEOOD 208 (2) (F.A.S.) (Mrs A. Legg)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.

1.45 SYCAMORE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (2847: 2m) (15 runners)

1.45	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.
1.45	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.

FORM

ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)

Decided at Worcester (2m 2f, good to firm) on seasonal debut.

Course specialists

TRAINER	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEY	Runners	Per cent
M. P. H. Jones	12	51	M. P. H. Jones	12	51
G. Moore	12	51	M. P. H. Jones	12	51

2.30 RED MARSHALL HANDICAP CHASE (21,893: 2m) (6 runners)

2.30	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.
2.30	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.

FORM

ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)

Decided at Worcester (2m 2f, good to firm) on seasonal debut.

3.0 CORNFORTH NOVICES HURDLE (Amateurs: 2885: 2m 4f) (15 runners)

3.0	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.
3.0	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.

FORM

ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)

Decided at Worcester (2m 2f, good to firm) on seasonal debut.

3.30 STILLINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE (21,588: 2m) (8 runners)

3.30	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.
3.30	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.

FORM

ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)

Decided at Worcester (2m 2f, good to firm) on seasonal debut.

Alysheba is retired to stud

Alysheba, the world's leading money-winning thoroughbred, has been retired to stud. He will stand at stud at Lane's End Farm in Versailles, Kentucky, at a fee of \$75,000.

2.15 BOWER AND BOWER NOVICES CHASE (21,250: 3m 110yd) (8 runners)

2.15	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.
2.15	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.

FORM

ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)

Decided at Worcester (2m 2f, good to firm) on seasonal debut.

2.45 WILLOW NOVICES HURDLE (2709: 2m 4f) (11 runners)

2.45	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.
2.45	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.

FORM

ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)

Decided at Worcester (2m 2f, good to firm) on seasonal debut.

3.15 HAWTHORN HANDICAP CHASE (22,110: 3m 110yd) (7 runners)

3.15	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.
3.15	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.

FORM

ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)

Decided at Worcester (2m 2f, good to firm) on seasonal debut.

3.45 ST JOHN AMBULANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (21,725: 2m 4f) (11 runners)

3.45	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.
3.45	ARABLE LAND (17) (J. P. P. J. P.)	2.0	W. J. P. J. P.

Doughty enjoys welcome winner

Neale Doughty, the forgotten man of racing, swept back with a winner when 14-1 chance Buttergourd collected the Bourns Novices Hurdle at Carlisle yesterday.

Pipe hurdler found positive in dope test

The Jockey Club confirmed yesterday that Norman Inver, trained by Martin Pipe, returned a positive dope test after winning at Cheltenham on October 5 (Cheltenham Cup).

Mecca revises Kempton bonus

The £50,000 Kempton bonus will continue for the 1989 flat season, but it will take considerably more money to win the bonus is now payable to connections of the first horse to win four races at the Sandown course (Dick Hindle writes).

Overweight no obstacle to Smith Eccles double

Steve Smith Eccles, putting up 6lb overweight, was seen at his strongest on Funchen View at Wolverhampton yesterday.

Results from yesterday's two meetings

Wolverhampton
Going good (faint) good to firm (h)

Carlisle

Going: good

Wolverhampton

Going good (faint) good to firm (h)

Carlisle

Going: good

Wolverhampton

Going good (faint) good to firm (h)

Carlisle

Going: good

Wolverhampton

Going good (faint) good to firm (h)

Carlisle

Going: good

Wolverhampton

Going good (faint) good to firm (h)

Carlisle

Going: good

1580

A defensive approach allows spin to thrive

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-58, 2-62, 3-118, 4-128, 5-135, 6-140.

BOWLING: Kapil Dev 8-4-18-0; Ayub 42-19-43-3; Hirwani 27-12-39-2; Shastri 14-8-11-0; Raman 16-8-23-1; Srikanth 3-2-1-0.

Umpires: S K Ghosh and P D Reporter.



champions, Western Australia from pulling off an inning victory over Tasmania, who were 289 behind after the first innings and 108 for one at the end of the third day.

RFU appointment for Brotherough

...Baddeley will be replaced in the singles in the second match, by Milton Keynes on Thursday. He has his great rival Darren Hall, the European champion.

...Baddeley will be replaced in the singles in the second match, by Milton Keynes on Thursday. He has his great rival Darren Hall, the European champion.

Baddeley will be replaced in the singles in the second match, by Milton Keynes on Thursday, by his great rival Darren Hall, the European champion.

Fiona Smith, the surprise winner of the Dutch Open last month, will need a fitness test on her achilles tendon before deciding whether to play in the singles.

Professional foul is fair play in Anderson's book

By a Special Correspondent

Viv Anderson, the Manchester United and England full back, found himself at the centre of controversy yesterday over comments made in a newly published biography of him.

Anderson defended the "professional foul" by declaring: "If someone is through and likely to score, then I will definitely up-end him. That's part and parcel of the game. I'd do that without thinking. I'd commit a professional foul if I need be, if it was the right thing at the right time."

Anderson's comments are likely to be investigated by the Football Association. "It is certainly something that will be looked into by the disciplinary committee, who will be interested in Anderson's comment, anyway," Eric Dinnery, an FA spokesman, said. "These comments are very unfortunate and it does

not do anything for the image of the game."

The "professional foul" has long been a part of the game. In the televised game between Everton and Manchester United last month, Anderson's colleague, Jesper Olsen, was brought down by Ian Snodin, and United's manager, Alex Ferguson, suggested strongly in his post-match interview that the Everton midfielder player should have been sent off.

In the biography, published by Heinemann Kingswood, Anderson admits that players should be sent off for the "professional foul" but he adds that, if his team gets something from the game, he has to do something about it.

"Nine times out of 10 I think I can get the ball in a tackle, anyway, but the tenth time, by hook or by crook, I've got to try and stop him."

Probably my views are wrong, but I'm a professional and I can't just let somebody run through and put the ball in the net without doing something about it.

"You would probably say I was a cheat," he says. "But I'd just say I'm a professional trying to win a game on a Saturday afternoon. Whether that means handballing accidentally on purpose, or up-ending someone, I'd do it and it's up to the referee to spot it and penalize it."

"I know I am advocating tactics designed to dupe the referee and make him get his decisions wrong."

Anderson has never been sent off in his career and, until his name hit the headlines over an alleged assault by John Fashanu, of Wimbledon, after a recent Littlewoods Cup tie, which is the subject of an FA inquiry, his career with Nottingham Forest, Arsenal and Manchester United has been free of controversy.

In the book he is described as a "model professional" by, among others, the Wimbledon coach, Don Howe, who bought Anderson from Nottingham Forest in 1984, and the FA is likely to take his record into account if he is called to explain his remarks.

The publication of the book coincides with the tenth anniversary of Anderson's international debut when he became the first black player to play for England. At the time, Peter Taylor, then assistant manager of Forest, said that Anderson was the ideal person to lead the black revolution because of his character.

But Anderson says in the book: "I never understood that. What am I an example of?" The book also recalls Brian Clough, Anderson's manager for eight years at Forest, issuing an order during training: "Right, track suit bottoms off, run in and out of them," he said, pointing to a field of nettles. "Cloughie is not someone I like, but someone I admire and respect."

Wimbledon player made contact with the ball first. Dinnery said: "We will not even be asking the referee for his observations—as we did in the recent case at Wimbledon when there was an alleged incident in the players' tunnel after the match against Manchester United. The fact that no free kick was given by the referee after this particular incident on Saturday says it all."

The FA will not inquire into a reported row between the Wimbledon and England coach, Don Howe, and the Tottenham physiotherapist, John Sheridan. Dinnery said: "We have heard nothing of that."

Wimbledon are due to appear before the FA on November 28 for an assessment of their record this season, having been fined £5,000 in the summer for unsatisfactory conduct last season.

FA decides Jones is not to blame

There will be no Football Association inquiry into the tackle by Vinny Jones, of Wimbledon, which put Gary Stevens, the Tottenham defender, in hospital with a snapped knee ligament.

Eric Dinnery, head of the FA's disciplinary department, said yesterday: "We have seen the television film of the incident and found no cause for instigating an investigation. The referee and a linesman were both close to the incident and did not even award a free kick."

Stevens, who recently had returned to the Spurs team following an operation on his back, is now likely to be out of the game until at least February.

Howard King, the referee at White Hart Lane on Saturday, ruled that the Jones tackle, which did the damage was perfectly fair because the

Wimbledon player made contact with the ball first.

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Middlesbrough told to pay debts

The Football League has instructed Middlesbrough to settle debts outstanding since the club's liquidation in the summer of 1986.

The club, which has moved from the third to the first division, must pay creditors to comply with conditions set when they were allowed back into the Football League before the 1986-87 season.

Middlesbrough's chief executive, Keith Lamb, refused to comment on the club's response to the instruction. "It has never been our policy to

discuss the private affairs of the club in public," he said.

Dean Martin was the victim of mistaken identity when he was sent off for the second time this season. Halifax Town claimed yesterday. The club has requested a personal hearing from the Football League after yesterday's decision to suspend him for four matches, starting on Saturday.

The Nottingham Forest manager, Brian Clough, is hoping to persuade Neil Webb to sign a new contract. Manchester United and Liver-

pool are thought to be keen to sign Webb.

His contract expires at the end of the season but Webb has said he is happy at the club. He said yesterday that he had spoken to Clough, but matters had only got as far as "talks about talks."

Ally Dick, the former Tottenham Hotspur winger, will have a four-day trial with Newcastle United in an attempt to return to the Football League. He was given a free transfer by Tottenham in 1985 and was signed by Ajax.



Jetting out: Robson, flanked by Gascoigne (left) and Waddle, prepares to board the flight by Concorde to Riyadh yesterday

Confusion is blamed on Kelly

By Dennis Shaw

Nottingham Forest last night claimed that a lack of communication must exist between Graham Kelly, the Football Association chief executive, and Bobby Robson, the England manager.

Paul White, the club secretary, was commenting on doubts which appeared to have arisen about the validity of the injuries to Des Walker and Steve Hodge and the manner in which their withdrawal from the England squad was made known.

Brian Clough, the Nottingham Forest manager, declined to be drawn into a dispute with England officials. But White was adamant that full information was given to Kelly on Saturday.

"I personally informed Graham Kelly of the situation 15 minutes after the end of the match and that they would not be fit to report the following day," he said.

He was invited into the dressing room to speak to the lads personally, which he did. There must be a lack of communication between Mr Kelly and Mr Robson.

"The players were not withdrawn from the England squad by Brian Clough. They were asked if they were fit and replied that they were not. They withdrew themselves."

Both players received treatment yesterday. Walker for a foot injury and Hodge for two kicks on his calf.

Robson seeks to stifle any legacy of Boras

From Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent, Riyadh

Before flying here at the speed of sound yesterday, Bobby Robson took out an insurance policy to protect his England players. He was concerned not so much about their safety in the air, but about their physical well-being on the ground tomorrow when they meet Saudi Arabia in the King Fahd Stadium.

Robson has insisted that the fixture is controlled by a neutral referee. He wants the official to be, as he put it, "somebody who is not afraid of the crowd". The stature of the opposition, albeit weakened, could attract an audience of almost 100,000 for the opening night of the arena.

Robson's fears are based on the man who was until recently in charge of Saudi Arabia. Omar Boras is "a nice guy off the pitch" but, as the manager of Uruguay in the World Cup finals two years ago, he was the leader of a team which committed some of the most savage physical excesses ever seen on the global stage.

Their brutality provoked Ernie Walker, the secretary of the Scottish Football Association, to describe them as "the scum of the earth". The dark memories remain undiminished. When Uruguay were put forward as the foreign entrants in this year's Rous Cup, the Scots refused to entertain them.

Robson is not convinced that Boras was wholly responsible for the behaviour of the Uruguayans in Mexico, for which they were fined £5,000 by FIFA, and warned as to their future conduct.

The opinion of his own employers was less generous. As soon as he returned home in disgrace, he was dismissed.

Although Robson does not expect the Saudi Arabians, under their new Brazilian manager, Carlos Alberto Perreira, to be rough, he is not prepared to gamble on whether Boras's legacy has been left behind. Hence, as soon as the fixture was confirmed, a telex was sent here stipulating that the referee should be a foreigner.

The initial response suggested that the hosts regarded the matter as inconsequential. The FA, in subsequent messages, persistently reiterated their demands, and even recommended the officials of Bahrain and Syria. No confirmation of Arabian compliance has yet been received. Diplomatic problems could lie ahead today.

"What would we do if they haven't got a neutral referee?" Robson asked. Fly straight back on Concorde, someone suggested.

Robson revealed that he could have accepted invitations to take on Hungary or East Germany at Wembley. He concedes that, in deciding to travel thousands of miles

into the unknown, he is taking a dangerous risk. Yet he believes the Saudi Arabians, and the Greeks in February, will hold appropriate dress rehearsals for the visit to Albania.

The heat here (the temperature is expected to be higher than 70° tomorrow evening) and the volatile atmosphere in Greece will offer his less experienced players an insight into the future. Robson trusts that their view inside a magnificent stadium, built at the cost of about £300 million, will be encouraging.

"It is not Argentina in Buenos Aires," he said. "They should be able to cope with it." Yet without Butcher, Shilton and Stevens, as well as Sanson, England's security will inevitably be held in young, trembling and new hands. Adams's probable four defensive colleagues have collected only eight caps between them.

Seaman and Beasant, who are expected to share the goal-keeping duties, and Sterland will be making their debuts. Although Robson would ideally prefer not to alter his line-up too extensively, he could announce today that he is also introducing Marwood on the left flank and Thomas in midfield.

PROBABLE TEAM: D Seaman for D Beasant; A Sterland, G Palmer, S Pearce, C Waddle, M Thomas, B Robson, B Marwood, G Lineker, P Beardsley.

END COLUMN

Many a side dish will be on view

By Derek Wyatt

(Of TSL, the television sports programme makers)

Sport on television in the 1990s will look back on the decision to create British Satellite Broadcasting as the major change agency rather than the Government's White Paper on broadcasting. Two years ago, one might have said the same about the innovative role of Channel 4 Sport, but now under Michael Grade it may well be eclipsed.

BSB's unsuccessful bid for coverage of the Football League has galvanised the opposition. ITV is no longer a "public service" sports channel. Its advertising, marketing, and editorial staff have been won over to the Dykeman edict that there are only certain sports that deliver an audience. Without these there will be no advertisers and, ergo, no jobs.

ITV Sport will concentrate on football, boxing, athletics, and world sporting occasions. But with the regional franchises up for sale by the end of 1991, it is undecided about the 1992 Olympics and its FIFA contract for the World Cup which extends to 1998. Will the new franchisees honour these contracts?

It will also borrow from the thinking of Alex Fynn, the man from Saatchi who provoked Irving Scholar, the chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, to push the concept of "eventing" in football which has become known as the Super League. Eventing and inventing sports occasions solely for television will become the norm.

Market leader badly needed

The decision by ITV to pay £15 million more than the market price for football was a major psychological blow to the BSB channel for sport, currently called NOW.

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Emergency meeting at Runcorn

By Keith Macklin

The Rugby League is likely to institute an inquiry into the players strike at Runcorn Highfield, and the resultant aftermath as Wigan trounced a team of amateurs and veterans 92-2 in the first round of the John Player Special Trophy.

Last night, the Runcorn directors called an emergency meeting to consider the players strike, which was caused by a demand for £150,000 win or lose, in the Wigan tie. The directors had offered £300 for a win and £50 for a defeat.

Chris Middlehurst, the Runcorn captain, said last night: "I have put in a request for a transfer because I am disgusted with the whole thing. The dispute was not originally over pay. The players wanted to retain the home tie to give us a better chance of giving Wigan a game."

"When the directors said they had agreed to go to Central Park to make more money, a players meeting decided to ask for increased money as our share."

The players offered to withdraw their strike action on Saturday morning, but by then Runcorn had made emergency signings of nine local amateurs from Clock Face, and Pilkingtons Recs.

Terry Hughes, the Runcorn chairman, said the club could not afford to pay players £150 for losing a match. He pointed out that Highfield had played recently at Fulham before an attendance of a few hundred, and this was hardly enough to pay expenses. The players would not have agreed to take a cut in wages under those circumstances, and with Runcorn's home gates only totalling in hundreds, the club had a continual fight to stay solvent.

More rugby league, page 46

N Zealand cautious on tour

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

England's prospects of concocting a substitute tour this winter, briefly raised at the weekend by an indiscreet Richard Hadlee, now appear to depend on the tolerance level of various interested parties.

The outline proposal, involving a short series in New Zealand next spring, may never get further than the drawing board. Indeed there are various compelling reasons for believing that the idea should be quietly killed off—scheduling, overkill, and potential financial disaster among them.

Such is the obsessive anxiety, in certain quarters, over leading players being given an entire winter to recharge their batteries in financial comfort, that the scheme will certainly be pursued, although the notion of a stopover in Australia has now been scrapped. The New Zealand Cricket Council (NZCC) yesterday confirmed that an approach had been

made and a decision will be taken at a meeting on November 25 and 26.

However, the disadvantages of such a cramped, compromise tour may well outweigh the advantages. The cautious comments of Barry Patterson, the NZCC chairman, indicate as much. "We felt duty bound out of courtesy to England to have a look

More cricket, page 46

at this," Patterson said yesterday. "But the whole idea depends on what can be fitted in, the financial viability and whether it is a meaningful tour from England's point of view."

On the first proviso, scheduling, Patterson said that nothing could be offered before mid-March, when Pakistan complete their tour of New Zealand. This leaves only a month before the start of the English season and Alan Smith, chief executive of the

Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), confirmed yesterday that there could be no overlap.

The financial equation is hazardous as a result of the apathy of the New Zealand public during England's full tour only nine months ago. As to the factor of meaningful cricket, England would require a minimum of one, and ideally two, Test matches, preceded by adequate warm-up games.

The TCCB had been maintaining confidentiality until Hadlee, in the euphoria of his Test wicket record, led the matter slip to an interviewer. While the board awaits an answer, however, Smith concedes that it is a final shot.

"It's a little premature to be discussing this but I am not pessimistic," Smith said. "I have to say, though, that it is unlikely any other alternatives will materialize at this late stage."

Richards is dismissed

A second England player was sacked by Surrey yesterday in what now appears a concerted attempt to conquer disharmony in the dressing-room (Alan Lee writes).

Jack Richards, aged 30, who played two Tests as England's wicketkeeper last summer, has been released from his contract with a year to run. Three months ago, David Smith was dismissed after an off-field fracas. He has since joined Sussex.

The apparently odd timing of Richards's departure is explained by his benefit activities. Although Surrey took the decision in September they agreed to postpone the major fund-raising events were complete.

What is not adequately explained is the reason for the

sacking, but Richards gave a strong hint by admitting that he has clashed with Ian Greig, the county captain.

For too many years now, Surrey have been burdened by a reputation for squabbles and low morale. Greig was widely thought to have instigated a new era but he confessed to me in mid-summer that all was not quite what it might seem.

Yet again, this year Surrey narrowly missed the major honours and it is the captain's justifiable belief that a unanimous team spirit could make the vital difference.

Richards says he has now put the matter in the hands of his solicitors. Surrey, meanwhile, need a wicketkeeper and Somerset's Neil Burns is being widely touted as the favourite.

Canadians face strict drug tests

Montreal (Agencies) — Every Canadian sportsman selected for future international competition will be drug tested before leaving the country.

"I think we can use the entire Johnson affair as a springboard for really taking a crack at the whole issue of drugs," Richard Pound, Canadian member of the International Olympic Committee, said.

The first occasion would be for competitors chosen for the Commonwealth Games in Auckland, New Zealand, in 14 months time.

Charles Dubin, the Ontario Associate Chief Justice, who led a two-year federal inquiry into airline safety in the early 1980s, opens an investigation today into drug use in Canadian sports, including the doping scandal that cost Johnson his gold medal in the Seoul Olympics.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Opie joins the men

Lisa Opie, the British champion, last night became the first woman to participate in national league squash in Britain, playing fifth string for Nottingham against Kingston North East in the second division.

Opie is a member of the England squad that tonight meets Australia at Cannons Club, London, but Lucy Soutter (viral infection) has had to withdraw.

Fresh date

Lloyd Honeyghan's defence of his WBC world welterweight title against Marlon Starling has been set for Las Vegas on February 4, a week later than originally planned.



Montgomerie: award

Top rookie

Colin Montgomerie, aged 25, from Scotland, has been named the PGA European Tour's Rookie of the Year.

Sewell in

Drew Sewell has replaced Steve Keenan (Achilles tendon) in England's basketball team for Czechoslovakia.

McBride pride

Paul McBride, son of Willie John, wins his first Ulster jersey on Saturday. McBride, like his father a second row forward, is in the Ulster Schools team that meets Munster Schools at Ravenhill.

Set for sand

Leading European Women's Professional Golf Tour players compete in the three-day Toyota Cressida pro-am challenge in Dubai starting today.

Havard bout

Floyd Havard, the British super-featherweight champion, meets John Kalbhean, of Canada, in Norwich tonight as preparation for a meeting early next year with Robert Dickie, a former British featherweight champion.

US TOP TEN

1, C Strange (US)	\$1,147,644
2, C Beck (US)	\$916,818
3, J Sindelar (US)	\$813,732
4, K Green (US)	\$779,181
5, T Kite (US)	\$760,405
6, M Calavechchia (US)	\$751,912
7, A Lyle (GB)	\$726,334
8, B Greenhalgh (US)	\$686,895
9, D Frost (US)	\$681,500
10, L Wadkins (US)	\$616,596

Strange, who won this year's US Open, indelibly marked his name in the history books with a superb three-iron tee shot which left the ball only 22 inches from the hole. "It is a shot that I'll remember for the rest of my life," he said.

Kite, who deposited his ball in a greenside bunker, courageously got up and down in two. Strange, however, made the putt and with that he won a \$535,000 (£297,000) prize to increase his official earnings on the American circuit for 1988 to \$1,147,644 (£637,580). It was his fourth victory of the year and his 16th in his native America.

Lyle had eventually finished joint 17th following a final round of 76 on Sunday. Then he lost the opportunity to become the first British golfer to finish number one in the US Tour money-list as Kite compiled a 72 to force Strange (74) into the play-offs.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (US unless stated): 278: C Strange 64, 71, 70, 74; 72: C Beck 65, 70, 72, 72; 73: J Sindelar 66, 71, 73, 73; 74: K Green 67, 70, 74, 73; 75: T Kite 68, 71, 73, 73; 76: M Calavechchia 69, 72, 74, 73; 77: A Lyle 69, 72, 74, 73; 78: B Greenhalgh 70, 73, 74, 73; 79: D Frost 71, 74, 73, 73; 80: L Wadkins 72, 74, 74, 73; 81: P Sawyer 73, 74, 75, 74; 82: D Ford 74, 75, 76, 75; 83: B Lumsden 75, 76, 77, 76; 84: J Sindelar 76, 77, 78, 77; 85: C Beck 77, 78, 79, 78; 86: M Calavechchia 78, 79, 80, 79; 87: A Lyle 79, 80, 81, 80; 88: B Greenhalgh 80, 81, 82, 81; 89: D Frost 81, 82, 83, 82; 90: L Wadkins 82, 83, 84, 83; 91: P Sawyer 83, 84, 85, 84; 92: D Ford 84, 85, 86, 85; 93: B Lumsden 85, 86, 87, 86; 94: J Sindelar 86, 87, 88, 87; 95: C Beck 87, 88, 89, 88; 96: M Calavechchia 88, 89, 90, 89; 97: A Lyle 89, 90, 91, 90; 98: B Greenhalgh 90, 91, 92, 91; 99: D Frost 91, 92, 93, 92; 100: L Wadkins 92, 93, 94, 93; 101: P Sawyer 93, 94, 95, 94; 102: D Ford 94, 95, 96, 95; 103: B Lumsden 95, 96, 97, 96; 104: J Sindelar 96, 97, 98